

Nat'l Demo Leaders Back Negro Mayoral Candidate

GARY, Ind. - (NPI)--All eyes are on this city's mayoral election, which could decide whether the national Negro vote stays aligned with the Democratic party.

Running in the election is Richard G. Hatcher, 34, who seeks to become the first Negro to be elected mayor of a large U.S. city in this century.

Hatcher has been repudiated by the local regular Democratic organization for refusing to condemn black power advocates Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown. But he drew national fund-raising support from Vice President Humphrey and a group of liberal Democrats, sensitive about what could happen to the national Negro vote should Hatcher be defeated.

UNTIL THE election of President Roosevelt in 1932, Negroes generally had been aligned with the Republican party since the Civil War. The party of Lincoln was identified with emancipation and Southern Reconstruction, while the Democratic party pursued a line more amenable to South segregationists.

Roosevelt, however, wooed Negroes away from the Republican camp with his "New Deal." The Negro-Democratic linkup has remained ever since, with few exceptions.

Coming elections may tell whether the Negro vote will remain aligned with the Democrats. If Hatcher is defeated--in a predominantly Negro city--because the local Democratic organization refuses to support him, this might be seen as a signal for a Negro switch to the Republican camp.

Hatcher, an attorney, bucked the Democratic organization to win the Democratic mayoral nomination. He faces Joseph B. Radigan, a Republican businessman, in the general election.

ALTHOUGH neither candidate has based his appeal on race, the election clash has become largely a black and white affair. Close to 30,000 white voters are pitted against the same number of Negro voters, with most whites expected to vote for Radigan, and most Negroes for Hatcher.

Lacking Democratic organization support, Hatcher's biggest problem is campaign funds.

NEAR-SLAVERY MIGRANT CAMPS CRACKDOWN (Claim Negro Crew Leaders Villians)

BRIDGETON, N.J. - (NPI)--Imagine making less than \$5 a day for harvesting tomatoes from dawn to dusk--then having to spend all night fighting off rats and roaches.

That's all in a days work at 1,100 migrant camps near Cumberland county, where thousands of Negro workers from the South--men and women, and children--live in squalor and work under near-slavery conditions.

The situation has gotten so bad that Gov. Richard J. Hughes has threatened to close the camps unless flagrant violations are corrected.

THE GOVERNOR earlier had described the migrant camps as an "inhumanity" after appointing a task force to study the situation. Crackdown on the camps appeared to be in the works.

Major blame for the "inhuman conditions" at the camps has fallen on the Negro crew leaders, who don't see what all the fuss is about.

"These here are happy n-----. They like it just fine right where they are," a crew leader said.

Other crew leaders have threatened to deprive any crew member of his wages or a ride back South if he cooperates with migrant labor reform forces.

An anti-poverty organization in the area called SCOPE has offered self-improvement courses to the workers, who returned to camp talking about better housing and a minimum

And that's where the group of national Democratic officials comes in.

In addition to Humphrey, they are Postmaster General Lawrence E. O'Brien, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D.-N.Y.), former Democratic Sen. Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D.-Minn.), Sen. Joseph S. Clark (D.-Pa.), and Vance Hartke and Birch Bayhn, Democratic Senators from Indiana.

The national group, anxious to have a Democrat in Gary's City Hall during the 1968 Presidential elections, is backing Hatcher by raising money on his behalf and giving him their moral support.

The future of Democratic elections with the

wage. Crew leaders have struck back at workers attending SCOPE meetings by withholding their wages. Some of them reportedly have assaulted the workers.

That crew leaders should be so hard on their workers is ironic, since the leaders' income is directly dependent on the worker's production.

MIGRANT WORKERS earn 15 cents for picking a basket of tomatoes. Crew leaders get an "override" of 4-5 cents out of each worker's 15 cents.

Then the leaders reportedly gouge the workers by charging the fresh price on milk and bread too old to be sold in stores. They also double the price of cheap wines, soft drinks, and cigarettes sold in the migrant camps.

To top it off, the crew leaders charge exorbitant prices for rides back South, telling the workers they can remain in the camps if they don't want to pay the high transportation fees.

The subhuman conditions in the camp hardly encourage the workers and their families to want to stay. Water comes from taps polluted by nearby privies. Many children have distended navels, indicating malnutrition. And the living quarters are infested with roaches, flies, and mosquitoes.

But in returning South, most workers will be no better off. Almost all will be as broke as when they arrived at the camps.

Negro community could depend on how much backing Hatcher gets from the national leaders.

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gation would clear the University of discrimination charges--If not, he said, anyone found guilty of discriminatory practice would immediately be O-U-T.

ERC's Executive Secretary William Wynn said that no actual investigation had been ordered by the Commission but that he fully expected to be engaged in checking the reports against NSU within the week and that the Commission should have a statement on the situation at a very early date.

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