

# Mayor to meet union heads on charges of hiring bias

Mayor Addonizio said yesterday he will meet within 10 days with the heads of building trade unions in Essex County to determine if there is discrimination in apprentice programs and job hiring.

The mayor's announcement followed the picketing of Newark City Hall by 75 Negroes and their ultimatum to throw protest lines around "selected construction" sites on July 10 unless the city acts.

The protestors called themselves the Newark Coordinating Committee. Included were representatives of the Negro-American Labor Alliance and the United Ministers for Progress.

Addonizio invited committee leaders to attend the proposed meeting with labor leaders.

Among the demands of the Negroes was one calling for creation of city committees armed with investigatory and punitive powers to handle complaints of bias. They demanded at least 50 per cent representation of these committees.

Addonizio insisted the city has no such power, that this was a matter for the state, and he was backed by Corporation

Counsel Norman Schiff and Isham Jones, director of compliance for the State Division on Civil Rights.

Jones noted his group had been shifted on May 21 from the Department of Education to the attorney general's office, getting for the first time power to initiate probes.

He declared that since Jan. 1 his department has not received a single formal complaint of labor discrimination.

## DEFENDS STAND

The Negroes were headed by Rev. Horace Sharper, who clashed sharply with Addonizio, and Assemblyman George C. Richardson, both opponents of the mayor.

Addonizio defended his civil rights stand as mayor and con-

gressman, noting that on May 28 he directed city department heads to strictly enforce the state bar against discrimination in city purchasing contracts.

But as mayor he would have to insist on "legal procedures," Addonizio stated, which drew a retort from Sharper that the Mayor was looking "for loopholes to frustrate us."

Richardson pointed to the effectiveness of the Philadelphia protest against labor bias, and Schiff said he would look into that city administration's handling of the matter.

At meeting's end, Addonizio pledged to turn over complaints to the state, and to terminate city contracts where racial bias was proved.

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