

Power Of 18,000,000 Sought Mass Negro Trade Boycott Proposed

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 22 (AP)—Mobilization of the buying power of the nation's 18,000,000 Negroes as an economic weapon in the fight for civil rights was urged today by an official of the National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People.

"We must realize as the businessman does, that dollars, though green in color, are raceless," Henry Lee Moon, national director of NAACP public relations, said in remarks prepared for a workshop session of the group's 51st annual convention.

"If our purchasing power is properly mobilized," he said, "it can make an important contribution to the solution of some of the vexing problems which now bedevil us."

Another workshop speaker asserted in his prepared text that "the AFL-CIO has been losing its influence among Negro workers throughout the South."

Herbert Hill, NAACP labor secretary, said the Southern Negro worker's "acute sense of alienation and rejection from organized labor" is becoming increasingly evident in union elections.

Hill said recent examples showed up in union certification elections in Aiken, S.C., and Carrollton and Atlanta, Ga. He said that in each case de-

cisive votes against certification by the National Labor Relations Board as a bargaining agent were cast by Negro workers.

Hill asserted that the "national AFL-CIO has permitted its civil rights declarations to remain an empty ritual." He added it was the hope of the NAACP that the national labor body "will directly invoke its authority in efforts to prevent the continued alienation of Negro workers from organized labor." Many Southern union locals, Hill said, "have been transformed into virtual extensions of segregationist organizations."

Discussing selective use of the Negro's economic power, Moon said the latest demonstration of its effectiveness was in Nashville, Tenn., where last May six downtown stores agreed to serve all comers at their lunch counters on an unsegregated basis. He said the merchants "frankly admitted that the withdrawal of Negro trade, following the sit-in demonstrations and the arrests of 150 students, had been practically 100 per cent effective."

Moon urged a program of "careful compilation of market data, the analysis of this information and presentation of our findings to merchants and industrialists as a basis for negotiations to achieve our objectives."