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EDITORIALS
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C.I.O. Group Wants More Pro-Civil Rights Action

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—The annual report of the CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination discussed in detail the "unprecedented coalition of reactionary Republicans and Dixiecrats" who succeeded in blocking all progress of civil rights legislation in the first session of Congress.

The report which was released last week from the national CIO headquarters stated that a number of bills dealing with fair employment, with the poll tax, with lynching, with the outlawing of segregation practices, and with general civil rights were introduced in the house of representatives last January by congressmen of both parties.

In June a group of senators introduced a complete omnibus set of bills covering every point dealing with civil rights. Not one of these bills progressed through the committee to which it was referred.

The anti-discrimination committee of the CIO has joined with many other organizations in urging President Truman to set up a Fair Employment Practices Commission by executive order to work in conjunction with the defense program.

The committee expressed approval of gains made in the eliminating of discrimination in the armed forces of the United States.

It expressed great disapproval, however, of the mob violence which broke out in the town of Cicero, Ill., because a Negro vet-

eran and his wife attempted to move into a vacant apartment which had previously been occupied by whites.

The local CIO leaders in Chicago and Cook county knew the trouble was brewing about two weeks before the violence began, according to the report. And in co-operation with the National CIO committee the local group took every possible step to avert the disturbance.

Another outrage which shocked the country, the report continued, was the situation at Dublin, Ga., when a union meeting was invaded and dispersed at the point of guns by the sheriff of Laurens county, and two members of the CIO staff were jailed for 24 hours without any charges being preferred against them.

Because of the anti-labor policy practiced in some sections of the country the committee expressed its intent to affirm the rights of all American citizens to meet in orderly assembly, and also to stamp out the vicious peonage that has been exposed under oath by the sheriff of Laurens county.

The committee acknowledged the favorable decisions, dealing with the denial of human rights, which have been made by the



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Delegates to Congress (3)

Fenner Ferguson, the third man to represent Nebraska territory as a delegate to Congress, was really the first who was identified in a permanent way with the territory. His judicial career is much more important than the one term he served as delegate.

Born in New York in 1814, Ferguson came to Nebraska as the first chief justice of the territorial supreme court. Prior to his appointment by President Franklin Pierce, he had lived in Albion, Michigan, where he had moved from New York in 1846. There he had served as district attorney and as a member of the state legislature.

The Fergusons arrived at Bellevue, October 11, 1854. One of Ferguson's first acts as chief justice was to administer the oath of office to Governor Francis Burt, who had arrived a few days before and who lay ill in Rev. William Hamilton's mission house. Two days later, Governor Burt died, and the new chief justice's first public address consisted of remarks at the Governor's funeral.

Judge Ferguson also was present at the ceremonies marking the birth of printing in Nebraska,

United States Supreme court. It further recognized that in other cases the offenders were sometimes protected by cunningly devised state laws. It, therefore, pledged its continued effort to repeal such state laws which cannot be reached by federal action.

and it was he who pulled the first proof sheet of the Bellevue Palladium.

As chief justice, he organized the first district and supreme courts of Nebraska and assisted the first territorial legislature in drafting the first code of laws enacted for the government of the territory.

The Fergusons, by virtue of the Judge's position and their many fine qualities, soon assumed a post of leadership in territorial society. The Judge, in common with virtually all ambitious men in the territory, was active in politics.

In 1857 he ran for the post of delegate to Congress, the highest position within the gift of the territorial electorate and one that always was much sought after. He defeated the incumbent, Bird B. Chapman, and almost in the tradition of delegate elections, found his seat contested by Mr. Chapman. The House of Representatives seated Ferguson, however, and he served one term as delegate from Nebraska.

While representing Nebraska in Congress, Ferguson introduced bills providing for a surveyor general for the territory, and for a territorial penitentiary. He also introduced a bill to provide a bridge across the Platte River.

At the end of his term as delegate, Judge Ferguson returned to Bellevue to practice law. His career as a lawyer was short-lived however. Shortly after returning to Nebraska he contracted an illness from which he never recovered and which resulted in his death, October 11, 1859. He was burned in the Bellevue cemetery.

Sen. Adams Files For Legislature



State Senator John Adams, Sr., 63, Omaha, filed for re-election Wednesday at the office of the Secretary of State.

Mr. Adams is seeking his third term in the Nebraska Legislature. He represents the Fifth District. The veteran lawmaker is the state's only Negro member of the Legislature.

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