Rights drive at crossroads

Not only embittered Negro ad
denates a "black power" but New York City's rising from the possibility of Negro-white separation for eternity, says civil rights leader Bayard Rustin.

Writing in The American Fed­erationalist, Rustin blames both re­frains on the same basic cause—the new complexities of the civil rights struggle.

Rustin is now is complex because of the nation's failure to deal with the social and economic problems—including those of jobs—which cloud Negro-white relations.

More Negroes were unem­ployed and more were attending de facto segregated schools in 1964 than 10 years earlier when the Supreme Court handed down its historic school desegregation ruling, Rustin recalls. And, he adds, 1964 has been an actual rise in Negro joblessness.

The result is frustration and advocacy of "black power," which he calls "not a confrontation but a 'coming out.'"

Unfortunately, says Rustin, too many white liberals share in the present situation dismaying and confus­ing. There were no big organized civil rights struggle, he says, when black labor, white labor, and people of one or more color bars.

His ANSWER to the pressing economic problems includes the "American Federation of Labor" for a massive anti-poverty effort in which the federal government's task must take a dominant role.

This calls for creating the stag­gering total of 25,000,000 to 27,000,000 new jobs by 1975 to benefit all the poor—whites and Negroes alike.

All men are brothers

The time has come, A. Philip Randolph writes in The American Federationist, to transform the civil civil social revolution, aiding all the poor whether they are black or white.

Randolph, president of the sleeping Car Porters and an AFL-CIO vice president, urges enactment of the "Freedom Budget" which he drew up to wipe out poverty.

Of the 35,000,000 people living under the poverty line, 20 per cent are black and about 75 per cent are white.

THEREFORE the black working poor must unite in order that we may fight for full employment under the leadership of organized labor.

There is no remedy for the problem that confronts the civil rights movement without full employment. Randolph believes the time is near when street marches and demonstrations for civil rights will have run their course. Without eliminating demonstrations and boycotts, he says, that emphasis shift from "the streets to the conference room."

Two charts outline the stage for labor's continuing efforts to meet the problems of equal opportunity. The charts on the left reflect an almost historic relationship of two to one in the unemployment rates of Negro and white workers. The gap has narrowed to 2.7 when the base is 1965. Negro-white differences are four times its 1953-1956 high of 10.2.

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