

Spotlight on 'Fight' Convention

Rochester's much-discussed FIGHT organization enters a new stage tonight (June 11), when it holds its first convention at the R.I.T. gym on Spring St. starting at 7 p.m.

(The name, FIGHT, is taken from the words, Freedom, Integration, God, Honor, Today.)

After tonight the Negro community organization will have a permanent set of officers, a constitution and a set of policies to clarify its goals in the near future. Up to now, the



Minister Florence

(Nominated For Top Two FIGHT Posts)

group has operated on a provisional basis, exerting its main efforts on organizing.

Minister Franklyn Florence, who as temporary chairman, has already built an image of a tough-talking, no-nonsense leader, will be nominated as president for a one-year term. While other nominations may be made, Minister Florence is an odds-on favorite to retain the leadership which he has already gained.

Canon St. Julian Simpkins, rector of St. Simon's Episcopal Church, has been nominated for the No. 2 post, executive vice-president.

FIGHT is a federation of civic, religious, business, social, neighborhood and other groups, banded together, "toward the goal of unifying the Negro people in Rochester, in order that they may assume their rightful role in solving the problems and determining the courses of action that affect their lives," as the proposed Constitution states.

To date, some 120 organizations have joined up with the new community organization. Among the most recent affiliates has been St. Bridget's parish. Other Catholic groups already signed up with FIGHT are the Catholic Interracial Council and Loreto House, the Hand Street neighborhood center.

The FIGHT group represents the latest, and apparently, best-organized attempt to develop Negro leadership in Rochester. Know-how and technical advice are being provided by the Industrial Areas Foundation, founded by Saul Alinsky. The IAF representative here is Edward Chambers.

The IAF was invited to come to Rochester to organize the local Negro community, by the Rochester Area Council of Churches. Cost of bringing the IAF here, an estimated \$100,000 for a two-year program, will be borne by Protestant groups, local, state and national.

BACKGROUND for the decision to invite the IAF to work in Rochester includes such key factors as these:

1. Burgeoning growth of Rochester's Negro population—from about 8,000 in 1950 to 32,000 today.

2. Apparent failure of previous attempts to develop a Negro organization of strong effectiveness. Rochester is not short of capable Negroes, but no leader has been able to build up any sizeable following to date.

3. The oft-repeated criticism that Rochester Negroes do not share in decisions which affect them, that they have little weight in the "power structure" of the community.

Even before Alinsky decided to accept the Rochester invitation, there were already sharp differences of opinion about the

wisdom of having his program in the city.

Sample of anti-Alinsky feeling was a full-page criticism of the IAF program, written by a Chicago sociologist, Philip Hauser, which appeared in a Rochester daily on the day of Alinsky's first visit to Rochester. Editorial comment in the city dailies, and from radio station WHAM, was generally against the idea of having the IAF work here.

In the next few weeks, a widespread debate occupied the attention of Rochesterians on the subject of Saul Alinsky and his community organization idea. The Council of Churches carried on a spirited campaign to inform the city of Alinsky's previous achievements in this area. For a while, the second most popular conversation-opener in the city (next to the weather), was: "What do you think of Alinsky?"

LATE IN MARCH, Alinsky announced that he was accepting the offer of the Council of Churches, and would send an IAF staff member to Rochester to start work immediately. An expert in the art of provocative press statements, Alinsky's acceptance was couched in these terms:

Rochester probably more than any northern city reeks of antiquated paternalism. It is like a Southern plantation transported to the North."

"Negro conditions in Rochester are an insult to the whole idea of the American way of life."

"But Rochester has a group of responsible clergymen who are willing to stand up and be counted, and who know that the only way Negroes can exercise their rights for equality is to stand up also."

"I hope that intelligent white people in Rochester are willing to stand up also and be a part of this project."

The nascent Negro community group held its first meeting a few days later, chose the name FIGHT for the group, and picked Minister Florence, pastor of the Church of Christ on Reynolds St. as temporary chairman of its steering committee.

Since then, the prime efforts of FIGHT have been centered on building up widespread support by gaining as many affiliated groups as possible. FIGHT leaders feel that the number of groups already signed up indicates that this phase has been effective.

In addition, as specific issues arose, the FIGHT leaders have directed their attention to them. Some of the action taken to date has been:

1. Picketing of landlords accused of neglecting their inner-city rental properties.

2. Prompt conferral with Public Safety Commissioner Harper Sibley, Jr. on a recent case of alleged police brutality.

3. Criticism of Richard Miller, manager of Rochester's Community Chest, for alleged "pressure" brought on the Baden Street Settlement House, which was considering joining FIGHT. (Miller's reply was that the Chest in its 1964 campaign had pledged that no funds would be used to support FIGHT.)

For the most part, however, FIGHT's main effort has been to build up its own organizational strength while persuading Rochester Negroes and whites that it can give Negroes a real voice at the community bargaining table.

With each affiliate entitled to send 15 voting delegates to tonight's convention, the delegation attendance alone may be well over 1,000.

—Father Robert Kauke

Jesuits Receive New Positions

Nineteen members of the Society of Jesus have been named to new positions at McQuaid Jesuit High School or transferred to other assignments, Very Rev. Thomas D. McMahon announced yesterday.

The Buffalo Jesuit listed the new duties of the Jesuits as follows:

FATHER DAVID AMBUSKE has been appointed Assistant Principal while Father Francis Reed has been assigned at McQuaid to the Office of Treasurer.

Father William O'Malley has been appointed to the Department of English and Father

Gerard McMahon joins the Chemistry Department. Father Paul J. Dugan and Father Stanley E. Curtin leave McQuaid for new assignments at St. Ann's Church, Buffalo and St. Michael's Church, Buffalo. Father William McBride has been transferred to a new assignment in New York.

Father Joseph Hartz joins the McQuaid Jesuit Community from the Martyrs' Shrine, Auriesville, N.Y. Brother Thomas Casey leaves McQuaid to become Assistant Director of the "Jesuit Bureau," Buffalo.

Mr. Kevin Sullivan, S.J., Mr. Robert Voelle, S.J., Mr. James Wheeler, S.J. depart from McQuaid for theological studies at Woodstock College, Woodstock, Maryland. Mr. Vincent Cannella, S.J., and Mr. Edward McGowan, S.J. depart for new assignments in New York.

New additions to the McQuaid Faculty are: Mr. Richard Hunt, S.J., Mr. John Porter, S.J., Mr. John Walters, S.J., Mr. William Ivory, S.J. and Brother Louis Mauro, S.J.

The late Father Morphy was local chaplain of the Knights of Equity, Rochester Court 10 since its establishment some 30 years ago. He was also national chaplain for 25 of those years.

"His passing has been mourned in all the Knights of Equity and he will be remembered at least once a year by a memorial Mass in all the courts," a spokesman said.

Monsignor John S. Randall, newly appointed chaplain, will celebrate the Mass. All Knights of Equity, Daughters of Erin, friends and relatives are asked to attend this Mass.

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Happy Grant Winners

These Notre Dame sisters are the happy recipients of grants for summer study. The sisters, with their field of research and the school to be attended, are: (from left, standing) Sister Bernard Marie (Language Arts, Vassar); Sister Mary John Bosco (Linguistics, Chicago Teachers); Sister Joanne Maura (Mathematics, Randolph-Macon Women's College, Va.); Sister Marie Colette (American History, St. Lawrence). Seated, from left, are Sister Mary Martha (Education, Vassar); Sister Marie Denise (English, U. of Virginia); and Sister Mary Evangela (Mathematics, Georgetown). Sisters Bernard Marie and Mary John Bosco teach at St. Michael's school; the other five are on the Bishop Kearney High faculty.

Plan To Wed

Major and Mrs. Robert E. Dean, now stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Carole Ann, to A/C William A. Penzer, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Penzer of 1025 Columbus Ave., Washington Court House, Ohio.

Major Dean is the son of Mrs. Mary C. Dean of Rochester, and Mrs. Robert Dean is the former Betty Jane Cooper.

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