

5-10-70
NJ

ROLE OF NEGROES IN RALLY SMALL

Racism Given Priority Over War and Other Issues

By **THOMAS A. JOHNSON**

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 9 —

Stepping across several white youths sprawled on the grass near the Ellipse, Reginald Wilson, a 19-year-old Negro, explained the paucity of black participants in the antiwar rally.

"We have this unfinished business of racism in America," he said. "Black people see the greater need to deal with racism here, before Vietnam, ecology or Cambodia."

Mr. Wilson, a sophomore at Morgan State College in Baltimore, said that several busloads of black students had gone to work in a voter education program in Newark, where black candidates are running for Mayor.

"And you came to the peace demonstration?" the youth was asked.

"No, not really," he said. "I live in Washington and came home for Mother's Day."

'We're Tired'

A youth who said he was a Black Panther official, and who refused to take a seat that was offered by rally officials on the podium, said angrily:

"We're tired of addressing the student movement. We're tired of seeing the student movement look 2,000 miles away to Vietnam and not look 2,000 feet away in the United States. There's only one direction to take, and it's not to wave peace signs when the National Guard is killing students."

A few hundred yards from the podium, another black youth, standing atop a red auto, waved a Black Panther party newspaper and called to the crowd "All power to the people—death to the fascist pigs."

"It's time to pick up a gun," he added. "All power to the people. Death to the fascist pigs."

A black girl, using the hood of the car as a counter, sold party buttons.

Several white youths crowd-

ed around her, but they were a far smaller group than the one mobbing two men who sold pretzels and orangeade from the back of a rented truck.

"Black people and white radicals can get together on some issues," said an unemployed black youth from Providence, R. I., "if they can learn to deal with racism in America."

The youth, who sat with two friends on a bench along 17th Street, across from the headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, ignored the rally after a nine and a half hour drive from Providence.

"We are involved in a class

struggle and these kids are not in our class," the youth said.

"That's it," another black youth, a draftsman, said. "They can afford to opt out of the system for a while because their daddies control it. It will always be there in case they want to go back."

"To tell people to strike their jobs to show they're against the war is unrealistic in the black community. Black people need every day's pay they can get."

The youths were asked, "Are you going to ignore the rally after the long trip to get here?" "We come to white rallies to relax," the draftsman said. "We go to black rallies to work."