

Post 11-20-68
**Rev. Groppi
Forced Out,
Aide Says**

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Nov. 19 (UPI)—A white Roman Catholic priest who has led a militant civil rights drive in this city for three years insists his resignation as adviser to a Negro youth group did not come under pressure.

The Rev. James Groppi resigned from the Milwaukee Youth Council, a branch of the NAACP, last weekend. He said he wanted to devote more time to St. Boniface Parish—to reshape the parish into a “militant social action group.”

But the leader of the Youth Council, Lawrence Friend, said Groppi quit under pressure.

Friend said the NAACP's national office and local adult branch pressured Groppi into stepping down. Friend said the NAACP had criticized the Youth Council for being too militant while on the other hand Black Nationalists protested Groppi's prominence in the group because he was white.

Groppi repeated Monday that his resignation stands, although Friend said he would stay on as adviser until he explained to members that he indeed wants to resign.

Friend said the priest, at a recent speaking engagement in Minneapolis, was met by Black Nationalist chants of “Go home Whitey!” He admitted that some members of the Youth Council wanted membership restricted to blacks, but said such a policy would not be initiated.

Groppi gained nationwide attention last year when he led daily civil rights marches into white Milwaukee neighborhoods.