

# Firing of Negro Aide to Schiro Is Confirmed

8-1 8/14/68  
Mayor Victor H. Schiro confirmed today he has fired Philip M. Baptiste, his only Negro aide.

"I requested Mr. Baptiste's resignation Friday," the mayor said.

"He refused to submit it and I informed him this morning that he was dismissed."

Schiro said by refusing to resign, Baptiste forfeited the pay for annual leave he has accrued.

**SCHIRO SAID** Baptiste was dismissed because he appeared as a member of the mayor's staff at a political function given last week for district attorney candidate Harry Connick.

Baptiste presented Connick with a certificate of merit signed by the mayor.

"Mr. Baptiste took the action without my knowledge or approval," Schiro said. "By doing so, he gave the impression that I have injected myself in the district attorney's race."

Schiro added:

"This was not the first time that Mr. Baptiste demonstrated extremely poor judgment." The mayor did not explain.

Schiro denied racial motivation and said he would have dismissed any staff member who took the same action.

**THE MAYOR** said a new aide would be named in "the next several days."

Asked whether a Negro would be appointed, Schiro said:

"Several Negroes applied the same time Baptiste did and they along with other applicants will be given consideration."

Baptiste declined comment today, but said:

"I will call the press together Wednesday or Thursday to make a statement. I would rather explain further at that time."

Baptiste was appointed by the mayor on May 5, 1968.