

Tie O'Connor to Attack on Marcantonio

The recent attack upon American Labor Party Congressman Vito Marcantonio by two reactionary Tammany district leaders was traced yesterday to John J. O'Connor, a vice-president of the Coughlinite National Democratic Committee which was organized to fight against President Roosevelt's nomination by the Democrats.

O'Connor is secretary to Congressman Martin Kenney, an anti-Roosevelt Democrat whose present congressional district has been merged with Marcantonio's to form the new 18th district.

On Sunday, Dennis J. Mahon and John T. Buckley, west side Democratic district leaders, demanded that county chairman Edward V. Loughlin expel from the county executive committee Bert Stand, committee secretary, and Clarence Neal and James Pemberton, district leaders, on the grounds that they are friendly to Marcantonio.

Mahon and Buckley charged that Stand, Neal and Pemberton are planning to give the Democratic designation in the 18th to Congressman Marcantonio. They insisted that it go to Kennedy.

They also attacked the Democratic designation given to Reverend A. Clayton Powell, outstanding Negro leader, in the new 22nd Congressional District. Mahon and Buckley are both prominent as foes of President Roosevelt's policies.

Congressman Marcantonio has revealed that both Buckley and Mahon have asked for his support in the past and have promised him backing if they got it. Buckley, Marcantonio said, "wore his pants out at the knees" pleading for the ALP designation for state Senate in 1942. He was turned down because of his reactionary record, and subsequently defeated.

Mahon pleaded for Marcantonio's support for Tammany leadership promising him in return the designa-

tion which he now demands for Kennedy. Marcantonio turned him down on the grounds that it was not his business to interfere in an internal Democratic matter.

Sunday's blast against the "alliance" of the ALP leader and the Democratic county leadership was the second within a week issued by Mahon and Buckley. They have hinted at an organized effort to destroy the unity that is developing among pro-Roosevelt forces in the city.

While their immediate purposes is to get the official designation for Democratic Congressman Kennedy instead of for Marcantonio, their anti-Roosevelt position together with the revelation that O'Connor is associated with Congressman Kennedy indicates that more is involved.

O'Connor has recently been proposing the formation of a coalition of Republicans and anti-Roosevelt Democrats to beat the President.