

Thousands Here Pay Tribute to Whitney M. Young Jr.

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By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

Thousands of mourners moved solemnly through the stately Riverside Church yesterday to view the body of Whitney M. Young Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, who died last week in Lagos, Nigeria.

The funeral is scheduled for 10 o'clock this morning, and the honorary pallbearers who have been chosen reflect Mr. Young's ability to bridge diverse American schools of thought. They include former President Lyndon B. Johnson, Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Henry Ford 2d and Imamu Amiri Baraka, better known as LeRoi Jones, the playwright.

But yesterday the thousands who viewed Mr. Young's body were, for the most part, non-celebrities. And while most of the viewers never knew Mr. Young, many, with saddened tones, spoke casually of his "quiet" and "dignified" and "effective style."

"He was beautiful," said Mrs. Bernice Reed to all who would listen when she stepped outside

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Associated Press

Mrs. Whitney M. Young Jr. arriving at Riverside Church here with Mrs. Robert Boles, one of her two daughters.

Thousands Here View Young's Body

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the church. A Harlem building supervisor, who—like many others—sobbed lightly, she said in a cracking voice: "Just like in life—he was beautiful—just like in life."

Steadily, the procession continued all day. By 6 P.M. it was estimated that more than 8,000 people had filed past the black coffin, decked with red and white roses.

Mr. Young's body lay at the pulpit of the church. In the lapel of his suit was the ever-present button with the equal symbol (=).

Two men, one black and one white, flanked the coffin, and an American flag, folded to show just a triangle of stars, rested next to Mr. Young's head.

Cause of Death Disputed

And while the mourners came in a steady stream—mostly adults and black, but with many whites and many young people—some uncertainties appeared over the cause of Mr. Young's death.

The National Urban League issued a statement yesterday saying that Mr. Young had died of a subarachnoid hemorrhage, according to findings by medical examiners in Lagos. However, the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for New York City, Dr. Michael M. Baden, said yesterday that Mr. Young definitely had not died of a subarachnoid hemorrhage. Medical teams in both cities performed separate autopsies on Mr. Young.

"According to the results of the autopsy in Lagos, Nigeria on March 12, 1971," the league statement began, "Whitney M. Young Jr. died of a subarachnoid hemorrhage, which rendered him unconscious while in the surf at Lighthouse Beach, Lagos, Nigeria."

The statement said: "A subarachnoid hemorrhage is a break in the blood vessels of a blood-and-fluid filled space around the brain. The hemorrhaging into the brain results in loss of consciousness. The break could

be caused by the rough surf, tumbling in the heavy water, or by hitting solid debris in the water.

"The autopsy was performed by Dr. Laja, head internist at Lagos General Hospital. Dr. W. E. Montgomery, regional health officer for the U. S. Department of State, was in attendance."

Autopsy Here by Request

The league statement said also that, "at the request of the family, a further examination of the body was made at the office of the Chief Medical Examiner . . . under the supervision of Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Milton Helpern."

"It is expected that the results of this examination will be known in two to three weeks," the statement added.

Reached by telephone late yesterday, Dr. Baden said that he and Dr. Helpern had "found no serious brain damage."

Dr. Baden told a reporter: "If you're calling to ask if there had been a subarachnoid hemorrhage, the answer is 'no.'"

He said their examination—which is continuing—"is to determine what role drowning played and what are the contributing factors."

The city examination, he said, would probably take another week.

Mr. Young died on a beach in Lagos last Thursday, and his body was returned here by a United States Air Force jet on Sunday afternoon.

Following today's service at the neo-Gothic church, which

is on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River, the funeral cortege will wind through Harlem and then proceed to La Guardia Airport.

The body will be flown to Louisville, Ky., where it is to remain on view again until tomorrow morning. Mr. Young was born in Lincoln Ridge, Ky., near Lexington.

Nixon to Attend Burial

Burial is scheduled for tomorrow morning in Lexington, with President Nixon delivering a eulogy.

Other pallbearers listed for this morning's funeral service in New York include:

McGeorge Bundy, president of the Ford Foundation.

Ramsey Clark, former United States Attorney General.

Joseph Cullman 3d, chairman of board of Philip Morris, Inc.

Dr. George Harrar, president of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Vernon Jordan, director of the United Negro College Fund.

James Linen, chairman of the board of the National Urban League and president of Time Inc.

David Rockefeller, executive vice president of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Carl Rowan, syndicated columnist.

Harvey Russell, vice president of the Pepsi Cola Corporation.

Harold R. Sims, acting executive director of the National Urban League.

Erie Vinson, a family friend.

Dr. George Wiley, director of the National Welfare Rights Organizations.