

6,000 HERE ATTEND FUNERAL OF YOUNG

Fill the Riverside Church in
Tribute to Rights Chief

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By THOMAS A. JOHNSON

More than 6,000 of the nation's mighty and lowly attended the funeral yesterday of Whitney M. Young Jr. in the Riverside Church, where they heard the internationally known civil rights leader eulogized as "another pioneer of the new age."

Mr. Young, the executive director of the National Urban League, died last Thursday in Lagos, Nigeria, and he was mourned yesterday during an hour-long service by government and political figures, business leaders, civil rights activists, black nationalists and Muslims and many hundreds of the poor.

And while the mourners differed in color, and in dress, they all sat silently for an hour to honor a man in whom they had all found something to revere.

More than 4,500 packed the massive church's six main meeting halls and chapels—it was the largest attendance in

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the 40-year-old church's history—to hear the professional social worker described by Riverside Church's preaching minister, the Rev. Ernest T. Campbell, as "tenacious in his beliefs and winsome in their presentation."

And outside, 1,500 more people, unable to get into the church, lined Riverside Drive, across the street behind police barricades.

Further uptown, Central Harlem turned out by the thousands in the bright sunny day to line several blocks along 125th Street. Some Harlem schools were closed and young children lined the streets and sidewalks with adults. After the services, when the funeral procession moved slowly through the Harlem throng, the street's several record shops played medleys of spirituals.

Earlier, at the Riverside Church, those 1,500 guests were ushered quietly into the 215-foot-long nave, a 100-foot-ceiling main chapel, watched as Mr. Campbell began the services at 10 o'clock with a prayer.

In a clear, deliberate voice, he declared: "How blessed are the peacemakers—God shall call them His sons."

Mr. Campbell spoke from the same pulpit where the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on April 4, 1967, had come out strongly for the first time—against the war in Vietnam. It was the same pulpit where almost two years later, James Foreman, former chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, called for reparations from churches of \$3-million for black people.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president emeritus of Morehouse College, remembered during the

funeral service: "Whitney Young said, not long ago, that 'if we must polarize this country, let us not polarize on the basis of race or religion but let us polarize on the basis of decency versus indecency, between those who are good and those who are bad.' I would call this method, effective nonviolence."

Many people wept quietly throughout the service.

Like many others, United States Attorney General John Mitchell, who led a 39-member official delegation from Washington, sat solemnly looking straight ahead. A few rows back, however, Imamu Amiri Baraka, better known as LeRoi Jones, he writer, cried unashamedly.

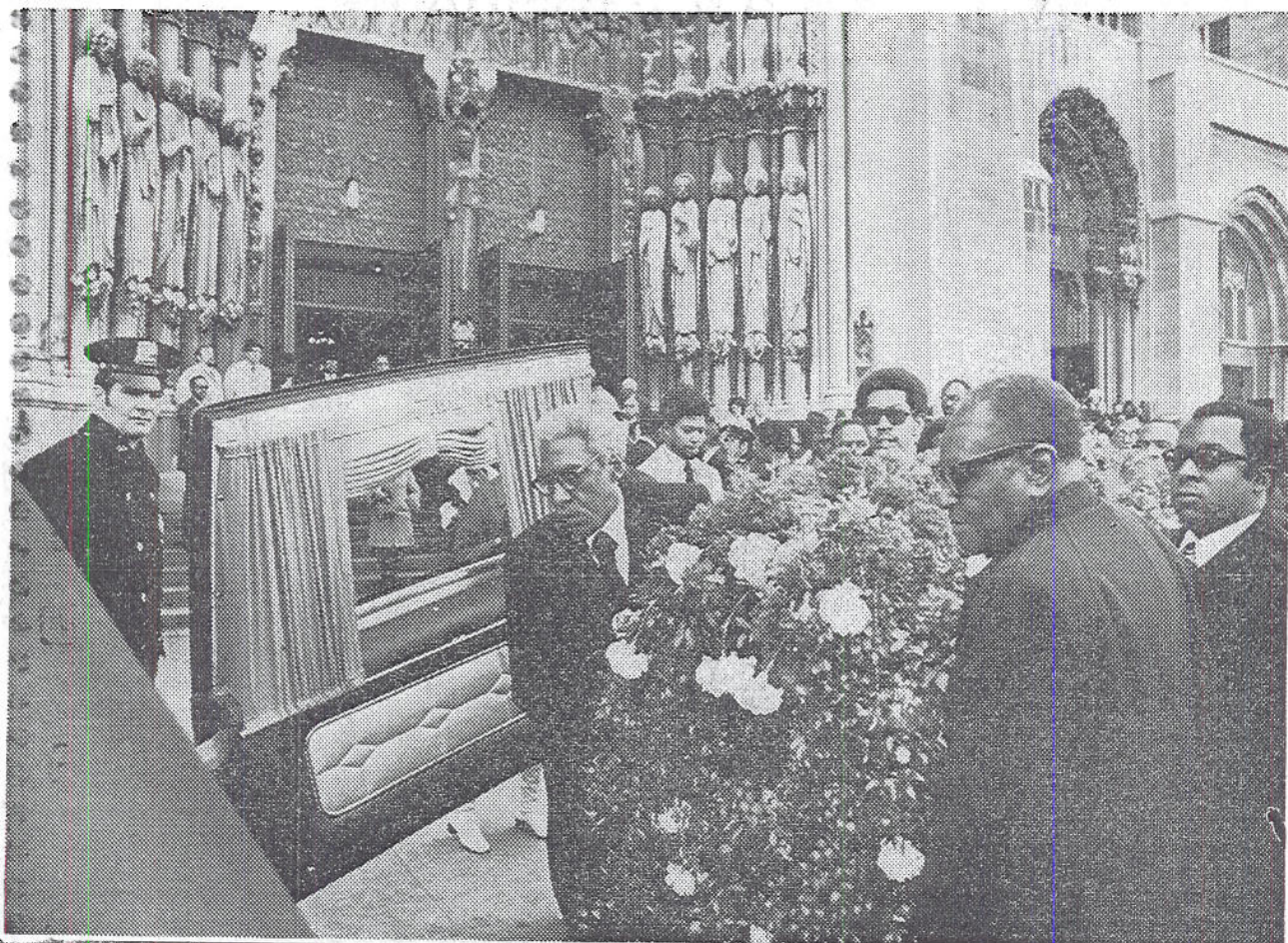
And when Leontyne Price, the Metropolitan Opera soprano, sang the spiritual, "Well Done," a woman screamed loudly near the front of the chapel, then sobbed for a few minutes.

Miss Price, who wore a wide Afro hairstyle, sang on: "When I've done the best I can, and I'm near the Promised Land, then My Lord shall carry me home."

Young's Commitments Noted

Dr. Howard Thurman, who, like Mr. Mays, is black, said that Mr. Young's commitment had been twofold. Dr. Thurman, the dean emeritus of Boston College, said that Mr. Young had been committed to the "overwhelming task of feeling his way into the grain in the wood of the dominant society—and to rationalize that insight into a technique of understanding and negotiations."

"This understanding," Dr. Thurman said, "made him aware of the area of vulnerability in which a social consciousness could be aroused and evoked while the negotiations



The coffin of Whitney M. Young Jr. being placed in the hearse yesterday after the funeral from Riverside Church

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proceeded from a common framework of enlightened self interest.

"The second aspect of Mr. Young's commitment was to the poor. It was his insight that the black poor were not only poor but lived in an intimate climate of poverty. The climate of poverty is an inner atmosphere of the spirit that drives out the springs of self esteem and often renders impotent confidence in the meaning and significance of the private life."

The last of the four speakers was Dr. Peter H. Samson, pastor of the Community Unitarian Church of White Plains.

Calling Mr. Young "another

pioneer of a new era who has fallen," Mr. Samson said: "He often said, 'There are always ways not to do what you don't want to do. A nation that can send men to walk on the moon can eliminate ghettos, if it wants to.' And he tried to make us want to—enough."

Mr. Samson, who like Mr. Campbell is white, said: "He too, had a dream—a dream of an open society. Separation was the evil he strove to overcome. Persistently, he prodded us, the corporations, the government, toward a better way of building new bridges—people need to live together."

Long before the Riverside Church, a neo-Gothic and Romanesque block-long church on a bluff overlooking the Hudson River, opened its massive front doors this morning, there was a long line of people waiting to get in. There were black and white, young and old—most were dressed up, but on the warm pre-spring day many others were dressed informally. And in the line out front were people who might well have used the V.I.P. entrance at the rear of the church on Clairmont Avenue.

For it was on Clairmont that convoys of limousines stopped to deposit many nationally known figures. It was here that Governor Rockefeller, Mayor Lindsay, former Mayor Robert

F. Wagner, Borough President Percy Sutton and Representative Charles B. Rangel of Harlem brushed against nationally known black activists from around the country. These included Dr. George Wiley, chairman of the National Welfare Rights Organization, Charles Evers, the Mayor of Fayette, Miss. and the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Some others included Julian Bond, the Georgia legislator, John Lewis and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the founder of Operation Breadbasket.

Mrs. Coretta King, widow of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., arrived early for the ceremony and went quickly to the front of the church. Senators Edmund Muskie of Maine, Theodore M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Birch Bayh of Indiana, George S. McGovern of South Dakota, Edward Brooke of Massachusetts, Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, Jacob K. Javitz and James L. Buckley of New York, Clifford P. Case of New Jersey and Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania, moved briskly from the V.I.P. office behind ushers down a long hallway into the church, Mayors Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark and Carl T. Stokes also attended.

The overflow crowd stood so more people could enter the church. The nave held some 1,500 people, the south hall 1,000, two galleries held 400 each, the assembly hall 600 and the Christ Chapel and the little theater held 200 persons each.

Mr. Nancy Grant, a Harlem domestic worker, complained briefly that she had not been able to see the body of Mr. Young because of the crowd. But she added: "My real complaint is that all these good people die and these devils just stay and stay here."

The Administration's Cabinet members who attended the services, in addition to Mr. Mitchell, were Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin, Secretary of Commerce Maurice H. Stans, Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development George W. Romney, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Elliot L. Richardson, and Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe.

After the funeral service ended, Mr. Young's body was taken by mortocade to La Guardia Airport in Queens and was then flown to Louisville, Ky. The civil rights leader will be buried tomorrow in Lexington. President Nixon will speak at that service.

Body Viewed in Louisville

Special to The New York Times

LOUISVILLE, March 16—The plane carrying Mr. Young's body and the funeral party arrived here this afternoon.

The jetliner was piloted by David E. Harris, the first of 14 black pilots for American Airlines, who had met Mr. Young on several flights and whose services had been requested by the civil rights leader's family.

Although Capt. Ed Davidson, a white, was nominally in charge of the flight because of seniority, Mr. Harris handled the plane throughout the flight. The flight officer, Willis Brown, was also black, as were two of the four stewardesses.

Among the passengers were Mr. Young's family, Bayard Rustin, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rowan, Mrs. Janet Rockefeller, Roy Wilkins, and the Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Jackson.



Roy Wilkins



Ramsey Clark

The New York Times