

N.A.A.C.P. Hardens Antiwar Stand

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CINCINNATI, July 2—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today took its strongest stand ever against the war in Southeast Asia.

It called for an immediate withdrawal of all United States troops and urged the Government to "concentrate our wealth and skills on peaceful measures to prosecute our own domestic war on poverty."

Until last year, the N.A.A.C.P. refused to take a public position on the war. In fact, it criticized other groups for involving civil rights with the peace issue.

Position Changed

But it altered this position last year at its annual convention in Jackson, Miss. It passed then a resolution calling on the Government to institute the "speediest" measures to withdraw troops from Vietnam.

Today's resolution noted that the organization was primarily a civil rights group, but added that "we cannot help noting that billions of dollars are being spent in a cruel, inhuman and unjust war in Southeast Asia, in which more than 40,000 of our young men have been killed and thousands of others maimed and crippled, while the nation is spending a mere pittance to eliminate the poverty that exists within its boundaries and is doing little to alleviate the conditions of thousands of our citizens who suffer from hunger and malnutrition."

This stand was in line with

the convention's anti-Administration tone, which was set Monday night when Bishop Stephen G. Spottswood, chairman of the N.A.A.C.P. board, branded the Administration anti-Negro in a controversial keynote address.

View Gets Support

Bishop Spottswood's contention that the Administration is anti-Negro was supported today by Vernon Jordan Jr., director of the United Negro College Fund.

Mr. Jordan, who addressed the convention last night and delivered a strong plea for black unity, said at a news conference that there had been little in the Nixon Administration that would tend to give encouragement to blacks.

"In prior Administrations, there were differences between promise and performance," he said, "but with the Nixon Administration you can't even get a promise."

Mr. Jordan was also critical of the manner in which the White House chose to reply to Bishop Spottswood's charges. The answer came in the form of a telegram from Leonard Garment, a Presidential assistant.

"The telegram itself was an example of institutionalized human insensitivity," Mr. Jordan said. He added:

"When there is a crisis in the economy, the President sends for business leaders. When there is a crisis on the campus, he sends for the college presidents. But when there is a crisis in the black community, one of his assistants sends a telegram. That says something of the good

faith in the Administration."

The Administration also drew criticism from Leonard Woodcock, the new president of the United Automobile Workers.

Mr. Woodcock, who pledged to the convention a continuation of the policies of the late Walter P. Reuther, said that the Nixon Administration appeared to be dedicated to tearing the nation apart.

Mr. Woodcock stopped short of calling the Administration anti-Negro but said that it had pursued policies that had set "region against region and race against race."

Mr. Woodcock promised that in the forthcoming negotiations with the auto industry his union would attempt to gain assurances of greater employment of Negroes among the skilled trades.

In a speech late yesterday, June Shagaloff, the N.A.A.C.P. national education director, chastised the Nixon Administration for what she called "its failure to provide leadership for the country in requiring the elimination of racial discrimination and segregation in the public schools."

Miss Shagaloff then announced that this fall the organization would monitor the opening of schools throughout the South, watching for ineffective desegregation plans, discriminatory and offensive practices within newly desegregated schools and the displacement of Negro teachers and administrators. She said actions would be instituted where necessary.