

N.A.A.C.P. SOFTENS ANTI-NIXON STAND

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Leader Says 'Administration
Has Taken Certain Steps'
on Civil Rights Issue

By EARL CALDWELL

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MINNEAPOLIS, July 5—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People tonight shifted away from its position of a year ago when it denounced the Nixon Administration as "anti-Negro."

Bishop Stephen G. Spottswood, the N.A.A.C.P.'s board chairman, who made the unusually harsh attack on the Administration last year, said in a prepared speech tonight that "the racial sky is not nearly exactly light and clear," but added that "it is not as murky and dark as it was a year ago."

Mr. Spottswood used his keynote address at the organization's 62d annual convention to discuss again the Administration's posture toward the black community.

"The answer in 1971," he said, "has to be that the Nixon Administration has taken certain steps and has announced policies in certain phases of the civil rights issue which have earned cautious and limited approval among black Americans."

Mr. Spottswood's speech was generally regarded as an official position of the N.A.A.C.P. since he is the highest official in the organization and since the speech was drafted after consultation with other association leaders.

The executive director of the organization, Roy Wilkins, in an interview last week, was generally critical of Mr. Nixon,

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N.A.A.C.P. Eases Nixon Stand; Leader Sees Some Rights Gain

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but he cautioned that blacks could not "live in a vacuum as long as he's President," Mr. Wilkins said: "He's still my President, although I did not vote for him. It is my business to do as much as I can to get as many concessions for black people from him as long as I can. I am not slamming the door on him."

Mr. Spottswood went on to detail those steps but warned that the N.A.A.C.P. would continue to "call the shots as we see them and shall try to judge the shifting positions of 1971-72 in public education, in housing, in employment and in other civil rights fields in good faith."

While he said that the Administration's position had improved, he still called on the President for "clear, positive leadership." He said that 23 million black Americans "look to the President to provide leadership."

Mr. Spottswood called civil rights the fulcrum of democracy and said that without them "the nation will perish."

It was in a similar keynote address at the organization's convention a year ago in Cincinnati that Mr. Spottswood charged the Administration was "anti-Negro." He said then that "this is the first time since 1920 that the national Administration has made it a matter of calculated policy to work against the needs and aspirations of the largest minority of its citizens."

That speech by Bishop Spottswood held special significance in that it was the first time that Negro moderates had charged that the Administration was actively opposing blacks.

To support his charge that the Administration was anti-Negro, Bishop Spottswood cited what was termed its policy of benign neglect and its nominations of Judges G. Harold Carswell and Clement F. Haynsworth Jr. to the Supreme Court. He also charged it with weakening the Voting Rights Act, and a pullback on school desegregation and several other points. The Administration, however, quickly disputed the charges leveled by Mr. Spottswood.

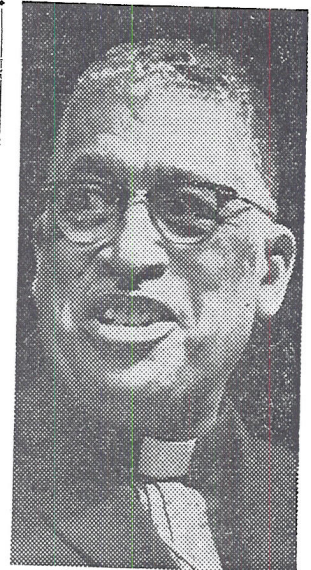
The tone of Mr. Spottswood's speech tonight reflected the theme of this convention—"All together—now."

Call For Unity

He issued a broad call for unity in solving the nation's racial problems. But he warned that "you cannot pursue togetherness by trying to get separated from everybody else." He said that some of the loudest calls for getting together come from people who want to be exclusive.

"They say that we'll get together without white people, or poor people, or educated people, or the men, or the women, or anybody over 30 or anybody under 20.

"Sometimes," he continued,



Associated Press

Bishop Spottswood

"these apostles of exclusiveness want to make it together without government, or political process, or legislatures, or courts, or policemen. Others want to get it together without business, or corporations, or organized labor, or banks.

"In fact, if you listen to this line of talk long enough, you will realize that what is being said is, 'I don't actually want to get together with anyone but myself, because nobody else is old enough, or young enough, or white enough, or black enough for me—except me.'"

The unity theme projected by Bishop Spottswood and his softened attitude toward the Administration were visible as the convention met. Sharing the speaker's platform with Bishop Spottswood and other officials of this oldest and largest civil rights organization was Maurice H. Stans, the Secretary of Commerce.

A year ago when the N.A.A.C.P. was attacking the Administration no Government officials were visible at the convention and none participated in the program. It was only after Mr. Spottswood's charges that Government officials arrived at the convention.