

# Davis Urges Communists Back Powell; Asks National Negro Front in Election

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

Benjamin J. Davis yesterday called for all-out Communist support of Representative Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in his campaign for re-election.

Writing in *The Worker*, weekly Communist organ here, Mr. Davis hailed Mr. Powell "as a symbol of the whole national Negro liberation movement on the political and electoral front," and as the "foremost spokesman of Negro and other minorities in Congress."

In support of Mr. Powell, Mr. Davis called for the creation of a "united national front of the Negro people—irrespective of political affiliation or view—supported by the powerful organized labor movement."

Mr. Davis, a former City Councilman, is the state chairman of the Communist party. He was convicted of conspiracy to teach and advocate the forcible overthrow of the Government.

He dismissed Mr. Powell's indictment for income tax evasion as the product of a "lily-white" grand jury.

The New York State Communist leader's only criticism of Mr. Powell in the page-and-a-half article came in a reference to the latter's "often ill-chosen and intemperate words."

Mr. Davis indicated that the Communist effort to form a popular Negro front around Mr. Powell was only one aspect of a broad Communist popular-front strategy planned everywhere for the 1958 elections.

The Communist party, Mr. Davis wrote, recognizes "that the next higher plateau of social progress in this country requires the building of a broad, labor-led election of the popular forces against the big Wall Street monopolies."

Toward this end, Mr. Davis wrote, the Communist party is prepared to work jointly even with "those popular forces who are as yet anti-Communist \* \* \* for an over-all people's outcome in the elections and on all immediate issues."

Mr. Davis denounced as "wholly narrow and sectarian" the recently announced effort to form a united leftist coalition that would put up state candidates this year. This effort, he wrote, was "trying to advance independent political action in a manner which is isolated from life and reality and from the labor, Negro and broad peoples movement."

Since a number of prominent persons who have formerly worked with the Communist party, such as Corliss Lamont and W. E. B. DuBois, have endorsed the effort to form a united Socialist ticket, Mr. Davis did not condemn outright all those engaged in the effort.

But he declared that the "viciously anti-Soviet Trotskyists of the Socialist Workers party" have gotten into the inner circle of the united Socialist effort "and are attempting to turn it into a replica of their own narrow sectarian and impotent faction."

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