

SOCIALISTS URGE DEFEAT OF NIXON

Humphrey Half-Heartedly
Approved as Only Choice

By EMANUEL PERLMUTIER

The Socialist party gave half-hearted approval yesterday to the candidacy of Vice President Humphrey.

At a meeting here, the 20-man national committee of the party said that defeat of both Richard M. Nixon and George C. Wallace was essential to avoid plunging the nation deep into conservatism.

The Socialists said they could not officially endorse Mr. Humphrey because of "his continued defense of the horrible war in Vietnam" and because "he falls far short of what the times require."

But, they said, a fourth party or protest vote does not offer a realistic political alternative to the Democratic candidate.

"Humphrey's victory is preferable to any other realistic possibility, and no strategy of protest voting will seriously forward the progressive political trends," the committee said in a resolution adopted at its meeting in the offices of the League for Industrial Democracy at 112 East 19th Street.

The resolution called Mr. Nixon, the Republican candidate, "the sophisticated spokesman for conservatism and racial backlash."

It described Mr. Wallace, an independent, as "the crude candidate of bigotry, regressive taxation and low wage forces in the United States."

Michael Harrington, the sociologist and author, who is national chairman of the party, said in an interview later that whether or not Socialist leaders would campaign for Mr. Humphrey personally would probably depend on whether he changed his stance on Vietnam and domestic issues in the remaining days before the Presidential election.

"While we did not endorse President Johnson officially in 1964, we were more enthusiastic about him than we are about Mr. Humphrey," he said.

In the 1964 campaign, Nor-

man Thomas, the Socialists' six-time candidate for President, toured the nation in support of Mr. Johnson. Mr. Thomas is now 83 years old and in poor health.

The Socialists are not running any candidates for national office this year. The last time they entered a candidate for President was in 1956, when their nominee was Darlington Hoopes, now an honorary chairman of the party.

Since 1960, they have con-

centrated on supporting liberal candidates, mainly Democrats.

According to Mr. Harrington, the party now has "under 10,000" members. But he said many of them held high posts in the labor movement and with civil rights groups, thus giving the party ideals expression in important places.

In the party's heyday, Mr. Thomas polled 800,000 votes as the Socialist candidate for President in 1932.