

Daley Is Involved in Civil Rights Controversy

FOR THE FIRST TIME in his 10 years as mayor, Richard J. Daley last week was drawn into an active role in the city's civil rights struggle and met with school board members.

Civil rights demonstrators have been marching on City hall and tying up Loop traffic with lie-ins in the streets for three weeks in an attempt to force the ouster of School Supt. Benjamin C. Willis. Two weeks ago, Daley met with leaders of the protest group and agreed to attend a session of the board of education as an "observer."

Said the mayor:

"I told this group I will not interfere with members of the board of education. They have made their decision [to keep Willis]. This is the first time as mayor that I am going to the board.

Beginning of Week-Long Clash

Daley's decision was the start of a week-long verbal clash with civil rights leaders on several fronts. Said the mayor at the school board meeting:

"I hope the tenor of this meeting will be understanding, not demanding; that the spirit will be cooperation, not conflict, and that we will resolve these problems around the table and not in the streets of our city."

Then Albert Raby, protest leader, outlined seven demands to the school board. He urged the board to give Willis a leave of absence, appoint an assistant superintendent for integration, and start a search for a new superintendent committed to integrating the entire school system. The board listened, then de-



INVOLVED NOW- At daily press conference, Mayor Daley asserts Communists have infiltrated civil rights movement in Chicago.

cided to hold another meeting on Wednesday with civil rights leaders.

"Documented Evidence," Said Mayor

But the struggle took a new turn Wednesday when Mayor Daley charged that Communists and communist money are involved in the civil rights marches. He said that police have "documented evidence" that 11 Communists have participated in the protests.

Joseph Morris, deputy police superintendent, said 11 names had been given to Daley of persons involved in the protests who were "Communists or members of communist front organizations or subpoenaed by the House Un-American Activities committee and then took the 5th amendment."

Civil rights leaders quickly fired back at Daley. Raby charged that he "has stooped to making a witch-hunting attack." In San Francisco, Dick Gregory, Negro comedian who has been a protest leader, quipped: "Now they won't even give Negroes credit for getting mad by themselves."

In Denver, Albert Brooks, president of the Chicago N. A. A. C. P. chapter, said at its national convention that his group is financing most of the movement to oust Willis.

N. A. A. C. P. Denies Communism

He sent off a telegram to Daley saying he was "shocked and dismayed" by the mayor's charges. Continued Brooks:

"The whole of the N. A. A. C. P. program is generally and specifically anti-Communist, as we trust you know. The nature of your charges impels us to request that you make available to us such evidence as you may have to support the charges."

Then 18 priests gathered in the office of the Catholic interracial council and issued a statement which said that Daley had "insulted the intelligence and character of the many people, including priests, clergymen, and nuns, who are participating in the current demonstrations."

Martin Luther King entered the picture, too, as he told a Chicago audience that Daley was trying to dodge the school integration issue with the charge of Communists joining the civil rights protests.

But at a playground dedication later in the week, Daley repeated his charge that Communists were participating in the civil rights protest movement.