

# Causes of Riots Cited at NAACP

By JEAN TUCKER  
Staff Reporter

BOSTON — Hartford's disturbances and the Newark riots are what American society deserves, Bayard Rustin, one of the country's best known civil rights leaders said Friday.

At the same time Wilber G. Smith, Hartford Branch NAACP president, called on the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce to use its power to correct the underlying causes of the events in Hartford.

Both men are attending the annual convention of the NAACP here.

Rustin, chief organizer of the March on Washington in 1963, was asked about the violence when he was leaving a discussion on "Democracy and Dissent" he had led for the youth members of the organization.

## Negative Response

"This society is getting precisely what it deserves and is asking for," he said. "If they are not going to put Negroes to work, educate them and provide decent housing for them, they've got to expect a negative and violent response." Rustin added: "The Hebrews had a way of expaining it: 'Where there is justice, there can be order. Where there is injustice, disorder is inevitable.'"

Smith released a letter he sent to Arthur J. Lumsden, president of the Greater Hartford Chamber of Commerce, with copies to Mayor Kinsella and Gov. Dempsey.

Smith appealed to Lumsden "as a leading spokesman for a powerful arm of the white community" not to "take any action which would reflect stop-gap measures geared merely to controlling the present rebellion." He asked instead that the Chamber move to "more broadly implement the many suggestions made to it for many many years by the local NAACP and others."

Smith told Lumsden he was highly disturbed by the events in Hartford but more disturbed by the events of the past "which have caused the present distress."

## Sees Job Need

Among the causes, Smith said, are refusal to treat non-white human beings with the dignity each person deserves and is guaranteed under our Constitution; and failure of the city's 3,000 businesses to provide more than 200 summer jobs when "nothing short of employing 2,000 youngsters year round will suffice."

Smith also listed as causes slow enforcement of housing code regulations, poor traffic control and street cleaning, and lack of enough recreation facilities.

Smith asked for more meaningful action to end school and housing segregation and discrimination in employment.

He told Lumsden further: "The fact that your organiza-

See RIOT Page 2, Col. 2

# Riot Causes Are Cited At NAACP

(Continued from Page 1)

tion's housing development corporation has taken steps to perpetuate isolation of non-white children and their parents by constructing housing in an already drastically overcrowded area . . . shows a very real lack of understanding on your part of the needs and desires of the non-white community."

"Any business organization which has the foresight, the talent, courage and will to build a \$52 million complex can surely, if it desires, find the financial resources to accomplish measures costing less than three per cent of the above figure," Smith said.

## Upset by News

Others from the Connecticut delegation were upset by the news from Hartford. It caused the Rev. Charles R. Gordon, president of the Bridgeport - Stratford Branch, to have a change of heart regarding a request he was going to make of the convention. He decided not to ask the delegates for a resolution calling on the Bridgeport police to investigate immediately the shooting of a 12-year-old Negro boy in Bridgeport Wednesday.

"In the light of tensions in Newark and Hartford and elsewhere," he said, "it is my judgment that perhaps it would be best not to ask the convention support in the form of a resolution. It might focus undue attention on the problems with adverse results," he said.

Earlier, the Connecticut delegation met in a closed session on school desegregation with Miss June Shagaloff, national education chairman of the NAACP. She will visit Hartford the week after next and hopes to set up meetings with school officials during her stay.