Mayor Tells City Puerto Ricans Marcantonio Isn’t Relief Boss

Says Needy Need Not Beg ‘Communist Stooges’ for Aid; Holds Foe’s Aim Is to Elect Morris

By Walter Lister Jr.

Mayor William O’Dwyer advised 750 Puerto Ricans yesterday that they do not have to go to Representative Vito Marcantonio or any of “his Communist stooges” to receive relief benefits from the city of New York.

Mr. O’Dwyer, Democratic candidate for re-election, attacked Mr. Marcantonio, his American-Labor party opponent, for misdirecting the “humble ones of this city” away from the “channels of patriotism” down the “blind alley of Communism.”

The Mayor spoke at a political rally sponsored by the Puerto Rican section of the Democratic campaign in the Riverside Plaza Hotel, 253 West Seventy-third Street.

Earlier in the afternoon, Mr. O’Dwyer spoke briefly at three Jewish ceremonies. He made no campaign speeches last night.

Addressing the Puerto Rican group, the Mayor assailed Mr. Marcantonio and then criticized Newbold Morris, Republican-Liberal-Fusion candidate for Mayor.

He said his two opponents “are not the enemies you think they are” and that their “trick” was to have the A.L.P. nominee take away Democratic votes in order to elect Mr. Morris.

If that should happen, Mr. O’Dwyer said, the city’s Welfare Department would “go back to what it was several years ago—actually a Communist clubhouse.”

He insisted that this was “not far-fetched” but assured his audience: “We’ll take care of that after election.”

Mr. O’Dwyer admitted that the recent influx of Puerto Ricans into the city “in large numbers” did create several problems. “But they’re not problems that can’t be solved—that we won’t solve,” he said.

“Naturally,” he said, “when they come here they are not familiar with our language and it takes some time before they are equipped to find the level, economically, that we know they will reach some day.”

The Mayor said that it was “an unconscionable thing” that “out of the few pennies they get” these Puerto Rican newcomers “should ever be asked to take so many quarters or half dollars and pay them into a Communist club.”

He said: “When the hour of (Continued on page 8, column 3)