

# Parents Protest Slow Registration

A protest was filed last Wednesday evening with Borough President Hulan E. Jack by parents who asked his support in securing more personnel at the Board of Registry in public school 89, Lenox Ave. and 135th St.

Twenty eight parents, members of the Parents Action Against Educational Discrimination, prompted by a statement made by the Borough President that registration among Negroes in Harlem was low, presented themselves at the school to register. Upon ar-

ival, they found 25 people sitting, waiting to be called before them.

The group of parents, mostly mothers with children, was led by Miss Ella J. Baker and Mrs. Alvenia Feaster, chairman of Manhattan Committee. Parents were prepared, having filled out their permanent registration worksheets before going to the office.

## Two Hour Wait

When members of the group inquired how long would they have

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**WAITING TO REGISTER**—Scores of Harlem parents protested and left without filing for permanent registration last Wednesday night at public school 89, Lenox Ave. and 135th St. because the Board of Registry had provided one clerk to accommodate all. When a group

of 28 parents, recruited by the Parents In Action Against Educational Discrimination, (shown above rear) presented themselves they were told because of crowds it would be more than two hours before they could register. (Layne Photo)

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to wait, they were told it would be more than two hours because of the numbers ahead of them. After leaving the Board, parents drafted a letter and sent it off to Borough President Jack denouncing the situation to him because it was his comment that reminded them to register.

Their letter stated in part:

"A wait of two hours is both practically impossible for parents with young children and highly discouraging to future efforts to increase registration. It is a small wonder that registration in the Harlem area has been so low . . . We urge you to use the influence of your office to make enough clerks available at public school 89 to accommodate this group."

In spite of their experience, parents agreed to return to the Board of Registry, 7:30, Aug. 7.

### Jack Promises Help

When reached in his offices Tuesday morning, Borough President Hulan E. Jack told the Amsterdam News he had received the parents' letter and was very proud of their "display of civic duty." He also stated that he had asked the Board of Elections to increase staffs in branch offices.

"Because of this new registration plan, interest is increasing among people creating this kind of problem. It is also true in other boroughs, not Manhattan alone."

The Borough President said when organizations canvass registration, "which is a most wonderful thing," it also brings about a need for full registration boards.

In conclusion he asserted: "I

have discussed the problem with Board of Election members and exacted promises that staffs will be increased immediately. I will renew my plea in behalf of the parents and certainly do everything in my power to stimulate the Board."