An Editorial

The AMSTERDAM NEWS is supporting Mayor Robert F. Wagner and Borough President Edward R. Dudley for re-election in the September 7th Primaries and we urge all our readers to do the same.

We give our support to Mayor Wagner on the basis of the Wagner record over the past eight years and we support Mr. Dudley because of his experience and superior qualifications for the job when compared with those who are running against him.

New York City is moving forward in an unprecedented manner under Robert F. Wagner and this newspaper would not be true to its calling if it did not point out that Mayor Wagner is seeing to it that minority groups move right along with the rest of the city.

The Wagner record therefore shows more and better schools than ever before in Negro and Puerto Rican areas, more Negro and Puerto Ricans attending integrated schools than ever before, more and better housing for minorities than ever before, and more and better hospital care aimed at minority groups than we have had under all our previous Mayors combined.

Along with these concrete improvements in the social structure of our city, Mayor Wagner has placed qualified minority group personnel in jobs at the policy and management level to assure that when a program is launched there will be personnel inside that program to make it work—and work to the advantage of the people it is designed to serve.

Thus at the very top level of our elementary schools, where so many minority group children are involved, the Mayor has placed a Negro superintendent, John King, directly in charge.

The same holds true in other sensitive areas such as the City Hospitals where Mayor Wagner has placed one of our most qualified young men, Robert Mangum, as a top deputy. And Robert Weaver, another Wagner appointee, has only recently left Housing to go to Washington at the President's request.

At the commissioner level under Robert F. Wagner, there are more Negro commissioners than at any other time in New York's history ranging from Arthur Ford in the Water Supply to James Dumpson in the Welfare Department with George Gregory, and others in between.

When the Mayor's chief opponent, Arthur Levitt, was asked concerning his employment of minority groups, about all that he could point to was his Puerto Rican chauffeur and say that he would have hired more Negroes and Puerto Ricans if he had been able to find some.

The Wagner record shows that the Mayor knew how to find them.

On top of all this, Mayor Wagner has taken what is an even more important step—he has not been just content to build and open public housing for minorities—he has thrown his support behind laws to see to it that PRIVATE housing is open to all the people of New York.

In that connection he played a leading role in the passage of the Brown-Sharkey-Isaacs housing law which prohibits discrimination in private housing.

This is a record which deserves support and it is one which we are proud to support.

In the case of the race for the Borough Presidency of Manhattan, Edward R. Dudley has brought an educational and political background to this much abused office which stamps him as being far superior to any of those challenging him for his job.

Mr. Dudley has the firm backing of the Mayor and he represents the type of man of integrity whom the Mayor has been able to attract to his side only because the Mayor himself is a man of unquestioned integrity.

Mr. Dudley's chief opponent is a Negro whom the political bosses have put into the race for Borough President to split the Negro vote in the hope of cancelling out Mr. Dudley so that Mr. Santangelo, reportedly the true candidate of the bosses can win. The courts have temporarily eliminated Mr. Santangelo who is appealing the decision.

In this connection, we might point to the absence in this political campaign of the name of Earl Brown, the author of the Brown anti-discrimination bill in housing, who has been responsible for more civil rights legislation in the City Council than any other member of that group.

Mr. Brown is not a candidate in this election because he is a victim of boss rule. He supported Mayor Wagner against bossism and the price he had to pay the bosses was the loss of the nomination in his district. The bosses don't like the Mayor and they don't like anyone who does like the Mayor.

By the reelection of Wagner and Dudley, New York can take a giant step toward the elimination of such bossism and thereby open the door for more qualified men like Brown.

We again urge our readers to go to the polls on Primary Day and vote for Robert F. Wagner for mayor and Edward R. Dudley for the presidency of the borough of Manhattan.