

Gurley Flynn Files 3,725 Signatures for Council Race

A smiling and self-assured Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, veteran labor and Communist leader, filed the necessary signatures yesterday afternoon for her independent candidacy for the City Council from the 24th District in Manhattan's Lower East side. Miss Flynn will appear on the People's Rights Party line.

Accompanied by a group of her campaign leaders and co-workers, Miss Flynn filed 3,725 signatures in-person at the Board of Elections at 80 Varick St. Before midnight several hundred more were scheduled to be filed by registered mail. These were expected to bring the total over the 4,000 mark. Three thousand signatures are the legal requirement.

With Miss Flynn at the filing were Evelyn Wiener and Albert E. Blumberg, co-chairmen of the campaign committee; former City Councilman Benjamin Davis, chairman of the New York Communist Party; George Blake Charney, state secretary; and Jesus Colon, Daily Worker columnist.

Miss Flynn expressed her gratitude to East Side voters who signed her nominating petitions. While these signers "do not necessarily agree with all my views," she said, she was appreciative of their support for her democratic right to appear on the ballot.

She pledged to make the campaign "a rousing crusade for peace, equality, jobs, housing, schools, playgrounds and higher living standards." She termed prompt passage of the Brown-Sharkey-Isaacs bill against discrimination "a No. 1 issue."

Her statement follows:

"It was a unique and gratifying experience at the age of 67 to be placed on the ballot as a candi-



ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN

date for City Council by 4,000 signatures of my East Side neighbors, men and women of all shades of

political opinion.

"It is particularly gratifying in that it comes less than four months after my release from a Federal prison where I served three years under the Smith Act.

"There have been City Council members who resigned in haste, possibly one jump ahead of criminal proceedings, and the majority of New Yorkers welcomed their resignations. But in my case, support of my candidacy indicates not only that these good American support free elections and the right of a minority party to appear before the electorate. It also shows that they want to hear my real views on public questions, views which I have expressed for more than 50 years.

"It demonstrates a healthy skepticism of the lurid lies of government stoolpigeon witnesses and a
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Law Vs. Anarchy

AFTER SHAMEFUL scenes of racist violence on the streets of Little Rock, Ark., authorities were forced to give in to the mob. Negro children were evacuated from Central High School.

The responsibility for his breakdown of law and order can be laid to Gov. Orval E. Faubus who helped mobilize the mob during the two weeks he kept National Guardsmen before the school to bar entry to Negro students. The Governor's statement and actions in effect placed the power of the state with the mob and against the law-abiding Ne-

FLYNN

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growing conviction that the Smith Act is unconstitutional.

"I am deeply grateful to all the fair-minded people who signed my nominating petitions. I know that they do not necessarily agree with all my views as a Communist. But we can and do agree, I am sure, on making the East Side a clean, healthy, safe place to live. I will be pleased, as a candidate to receive all suggestions as to what is needed on the East Side.

"I am especially grateful to my many friends, young and old, who successfully circulated the petitions and obtained the 4,000 signatures. This was a voluntary act of good citizenship in defense of popular political rights. I hope for their continued activity to make this campaign a rousing crusade for peace, equality, jobs, housing, schools, playgrounds and higher living standards. I intend to make prompt passage of the Brown-Sharkey-Isaacs bill a No. 1 issue. I hope to make my campaign a modest contribution to the rising movement of labor and the Negro people to lead a great anti-monopoly alliance that will govern this nation in the interests of the people and not the men of the trusts.

"After 28 months of enforced silence in prison, it is a great pleasure for me again to exercise my right to speak out. I welcome this unusual opportunity. I expect to be heard on street corners, in halls and homes, on the radio and TV, as my contribution to the best interests and well-being of the American people, to which I long ago dedicated my life."