

A PROUD ACHIEVEMENT

FILING OF 4,000 signatures by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn yesterday in her race for City Council is an achievement of which New York progressives may be proud.

A candidate on the Peoples Rights Party line, Gurley Flynn's record as a labor leader, a fighter for civil liberties and member of the national committee of the Communist Party were made widely known to her neighbors of the East Side.

Most of the 4,000 who signed her nominating petitions did not agree with all her views. But clearly they supported the RIGHT to run—a good indication that the McCarthyian cold war years did not destroy the deep democratic feelings of the plain people.

The response to her campaign, particularly among the Negro and Puerto Rican people of the East Side, indicates the desire of these workingclass voters for a program of struggle for better housing, against jimcrowism and for higher living standards.

This response is only one aspect of the desire of New York workers and middle class voters to express themselves politically—and critically. Another was seen over the weekend when the convention of Americans for Democratic Action endorsed Mayor Wagner—and refused to endorse his running mates.

While the ADA and organized labor (AFL and CIO) are supporting Wagner, this does not close the question. The mounting public criticism on issues—housing, discrimination, schools, the municipal witchhunt—will form the basis for the widest unity of people's organizations. What is required is the greatest degree of INDEPENDENT political activity of labor and the Negro people for their own demands. It is this activity that can greatly shape the campaign.

Gurley Flynn's great voice raised on the streets of the East Side and over the radio and TV will be a contribution to that many-sided fight of labor and people's groups for the burning needs of the people of New York.