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As We See It

Georgia Deserves Better Than Its November Fate

*This was his Georgia, this his share
Of pine and river and sleepy air,
Of summer thunder and winter rain
That spills bright tears on the window
pane.*

*With the slight fierce passion of a
young man's grief,
Of the mocking bird and the mulberry
leaf.*

So Stephen Vincent Benet described it in his classic "John Brown's Body." But Benet was talking of the Georgia of Clay Wingate, the Georgia of a hundred years ago.

Since then Georgia has made great strides. Despite the red-gallused Gene Talmadge and some of his successors, Ed Rivers and Marv Griffin, Georgia has become the second most enlightened state of the Old South, only behind North Carolina.

Ellis Arnall was one of the first liberal Southern politicians when he was elected governor in 1943. Since then there have been several, notably the last two, Ernest Vandiver and Carl Sanders, who cannot succeed himself. Gradually Georgia has been moving into the 20th Century.

But now the steps of progress have fallen silent. The Democratic Party of Georgia has all but destroyed itself, and the people

of the state in November face a choice no free people should be called upon to make.

In a runoff for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, arch-segregationist Lester Maddox stopped the comeback attempts of Arnall. Maddox is known in the North as the man who furnished axe handles to the white patrons of his Pickrick Restaurant ("You pick it out, we'll rick it up") to ward off would-be Negro patrons, and when ordered to permit Negroes to enter, closed his doors rather than submit to law and to human dignity.

Facing him will be freshman Rep. Howard "Bo" Callaway, Georgia's only Republican congressman and the scion of a paternalistic cotton mill family. Callaway is the kind of a Southerner who is "good to his niggers"—so long as they don't get "uppity ideas" about equal rights and things like that. Callaway is also the young man who led Georgia down the Goldwater path in 1964.

No matter who wins, the people of the state will lose. Maddox openly professes to be a devotee of George Wallace. Callaway openly professes equal affection for Barry Goldwater.

Georgia deserves better.