

TULSA DAILY WORLD

"Oklahoma's Greatest Newspaper"
EUGENE LORTON
1869-1949

Page 6

Saturday, October 1, 1966

Published Every Weekday Morning and Sunday by World Publishing Company

BYRON V. BOONE, Pres. and Publisher;

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BIBLE THOUGHT

The Lord shall guide thee continually.—Isa. 58:11

Sickness In Georgia

TWO MEN in the State of Georgia personify the sickness the civil rights movement has brought to our political life in 1966.

One of course is LESTER MADDOX, the new Democratic nominee for Governor who won last Wednesday's runoff primary with the help of a powerful white-backlash vote.

The other is MAYOR IVAN ALLEN of Atlanta, one of the leading civil-rights moderates in the South and a Democrat. He calls MADDOX "totally unqualified" and says his nomination resulted from "ignorance, prejudice, reactionism and the duplicity of many Republican voters."

(In Georgia apparently there is nothing to keep Republicans from voting in a Democratic primary, and it's believed many of them voted for MADDOX in the belief he could be beaten in the November general election.)

ALLEN is one of the progressives of Atlanta who have tried to bring reason and goodwill to the problem of race relations. They have made their City probably the outstanding showplace of racial progress in the South.

But recently the new radicals fo-

mented street riots in Atlanta and villified ALLEN as an enemy of the Negro when he used police power to break up the fighting. That was a bitter moment for a man who had spent years trying to do constructive work in one of the most sensitive areas of human relationship.

But that wasn't the end. It wasn't enough that black power zealots turned on a longtime friend of true civil rights; their fanaticism put fuel in the anti-civil rights political campaign of MADDOX.

So now we see the flames fanned by STOKELY CARMICHAEL and his followers burning down the structure of progress erected by men like ALLEN. And Georgia falls backward in race relations with the renomination of an out-and-out segregationist who is best remembered for using a pistol and ax-handles to drive Negroes out of a cafeteria he once operated.

It boils down to this: Between the extremists—CARMICHAEL types at one end and the MADDOX people at the other—the IVAN ALLENS in Georgia are caught in a frustrating squeeze. They are victims of the new militancy, just as is the cause of civil rights itself.