

Bob Kennedy Hits At States Righters

WASHINGTON (AP)—Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy told the Senate Judiciary Committee that those who preach states' rights are not "seeking the protection of the individual citizen, but his exploitation."

In pleading Thursday before the Southern-dominated group for passage of the administration's civil rights program, Kennedy said: "The time is long past—if indeed it ever existed—when we should permit the noble concept of states' rights to be betrayed and corrupted into a slogan to hide the bald denial of American rights, of civil rights, and of human rights."

THE MOST GOOD

Kennedy told the committee that passage of the controversial public accommodations part of the program is essential.

"It is the part whose prompt enactment will accomplish the most immediate good in stamping out the fires of racial discord in our land," he said.

"Even as we sit here today, National Guardsmen patrol the streets of Cambridge, Md., to prevent violence. Unrest is boiling in Savannah, Ga.; in Danville, Va., and in countless other cities in the North as well as in the South," Kennedy said.

"This is what happens when long-standing legitimate grievances are not remedied under law."

QUESTIONED BY ERVIN

Under questioning by Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., D-N.C., Kennedy said it is "not correct" to say the administration program was submitted to Congress because, as Ervin put it, "we now are having troublesome times" with racial demonstrations.

The attorney general said the program was submitted "because there are injustices that should be remedied, not because demonstrations are taking place."

Ervin's questioning hardly had got under way when the Senate convened, forcing a recess in the hearing until some time next week. Ervin told Kennedy he was "not trying to filibuster" but he said, "Some of us see this bill as a very drastic assault on the principles of constitutional government and the private rights of individuals."

"I understand," Kennedy said.

Ervin told newsmen he does not know how long his questioning will take, when Kennedy returns next week. He noted that the bill has seven different sections and contains "an awful lot of legal gobbledegook."

One section he does not expect

to ask many questions about, Ervin said, is the one that would establish a community relations service to help conciliate racial disputes.

However, Ervin said he would like to note that: "The Civil Rights Commission agitates, the civil rights division of the Justice department aggravates, and now there would be a community relations service to conciliate."

Reuther Seeks Rights Passage In Testimony

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Labor leader Walter Reuther told Congress Friday that if it fails to answer Negro pleas for full citizenship, "desperate men will search for . . . answers in bitterness and bloodshed."

Sanders To Fight Civil Rights At Governors Confab

Gov. Carl Sanders took a militant stance Friday on the eve of an expected battle at Miami Beach to keep the civil rights issue from disrupting the National Governors Conference.

Sanders is a member of the conference resolutions committee, which will be the testing ground for an expected civil rights proposal by backers of New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, a potential Democratic contender for the presidential nomination.

In Sanders' view, Rockefeller forces are planning this purely because of his presidential aspirations and disapproves of making a campaign arena of the conference.

"If he tries to ram it down our throats - violate the rule - I think there are enough governors who believe in a constructive conference to do something about it," Sanders told United Press International.

"I hope there will be no fight. But if he backs us in a corner I believe he will find there are some of us willing to respond. I think it is ridiculous that the governors conference be used as a political battle ground."

The "rule" Sanders referred to is one that needs a two thirds vote of the resolutions committee members to get an issue such as civil rights on the floor. Sanders and a number of other governors want it changed to require a unanimous vote.

"The hour is much later than you realize," the red-haired president of the United Auto Workers told a House Judiciary subcommittee.

The UAW, he said, has a "sizeable number" of Negroes. Reuther insisted that President Kennedy's civil rights program must not be "compromised" or weakened in any way as it moves through Congress. He said it was a "very moderate bill" and that his union wanted it strengthened, if possible.

He volunteered that "I do not know how long responsible leaders of the Negro community can restrain their followers. Congress must provide national means of providing equal opportunity for all our people. If the apostles of hate will take over," he added.

As is his custom, Reuther ignored his prepared text in delivering an impassioned plea for strong civil rights legislation. He spoke off the cuff for almost an hour. Afterward, there were no hostile questions. Peter Rodino, D-N.J., as acting chairman, presided over the hearing which was attended Friday only by northern members.