

Feels Tax Cut More Important Than Rights Bill

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WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Sen. George A. Smathers, D-Fla., said Friday that federal income tax cut is more important to the nation's Negroes than enactment of the administration's civil rights program, much of which he opposes.

The senator said that if the Negro can be given better economic conditions which will mean more employment "many of the complaints which he legitimately now has would immediately disappear."

Smathers, in his weekly radio-television program for Florida constituents, said the only civil rights proposals he could support involve voluntary desegregation of public accommodations, literacy tests, vocational training and voting guarantees. He opposed empowering the federal government to enforce desegregation of privately-owned and operated hotels, restaurants and similar establishments.

Smathers said he believed that "if a man or woman puts his or her money into a business that they have the right to sell only to red-headed, club-footed, cross-eyed people — that is their privilege, and that is their legal privilege."

He said there is a moral issue involved if a proprietor advertises for business from everyone. But he said it is a "moral issue to be decided by the individuals involved," not by the government. He said he would have to vote against the administration package if the compulsory desegregation were included. Otherwise, on an plan were included. Otherwise, on an individual basis, he would vote for those he accepts and against those he opposes, he said.

"I think that a tax reduction bill as far as the negro citizens is concerned is even more important than this so-called civil rights legislation," he said. The senator said a mass Negro march on Washington would be a "very unfortunate thing." He said conditions are moving along now more than satisfactorily, and I think they should leave well enough alone in this particular respect."

Positive Civil Right Action Urged By GOPs

Georgia's high state officials and representatives to congress have been called upon by the Fulton County Republican Club, B. F. Bullock, president, to stop making statements, or taking action to perpetuate segregation and discrimination, and to support strong civil rights legislation now before the legislators.

The Fulton County GOPs also, in a second resolution, called upon Republicans in both houses of Congress to develop civil rights legislation to alleviate and solve the crisis in race relations in this country.

Said the Fulton County Republican Club in the resolution on the action of officials:

"WHEREAS, the crisis in race relations, which is threatening the position of the United States as world leader in the field of human rights and liberties, has resulted from the failure of Congress to enact and enforce legislation against segregation and discrimination,

"AND WHEREAS, Senator Russell and Talmadge and Governor Sanders of the great State of Georgia have publicly declared themselves to be opposed to the civil rights legislation presently proposed by the President of the United States for the purpose of eliminating segregation and discrimination,

"BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, that we, as members of the Republican Party, which has historically and traditionally supported the principles of freedom and justice for all, call upon these high State officials and all other officials elected by the people of the State of Georgia, to refrain from making any public statement or taking any action which would tend to perpetuate segregation and discrimination, and to support the legislation which would make secure the United States' position as world leader in the field of human rights and liberties."

In reference to need for action by Republican members of Congress, the Fulton GOP resolved:

"WHEREAS, the Congress faces a crisis in race relations in the United States, in which the future of this country and its international power and reputation are at stake abroad and in which its honesty in fulfilling the ideals of demo-

cracy are questioned at home and abroad.

"BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, that we call upon the Republicans in both Houses of the United States Congress, to recognize the evils and injustices of segregation and discrimination which have violated the Constitution of the United States and the basic principles of the Republican Party for one hundred years, and to initiate, develop and support legislation which will eliminate all evils and injustices in voting rights, public accommodations, public education, housing, employment opportunities and public health and welfare."