

## Mayor Makes Idea of 'Mixing' Laws

By STEVEN GERSTEL

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The mayor of Atlanta today urged Congress to enact President Kennedy's proposal to ban racial discrimination in hotels, restaurants and other private businesses open to the public.

The appeal of Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. was the first by a major Southern public official favoring the so-called public accommodations act at hearings by the Senate Commerce Committee.

Allen led off a full day of testimony on both sides of the Capitol today on civil rights legislation. South Carolina Gov. Donald S. Russell was scheduled to appear before the Senate group after Allen.

Mayor Allen testified that if the open-facilities act is not enacted some Southern cities which voluntarily banned discrimination might reverse themselves and return to policies of strict segregation.

### "Cannot Dodge"

"We cannot dodge the issue," Allen said. "We cannot look back over our shoulder or turn the clock back to the 1860s."

But Allen said a public accommodations act should contain provisions giving cities and businesses "a reasonable time" to desegregate before the Federal Government intervened.

"It might even be necessary that the time factor be made more more lenient in favor of smaller cities and communities," Allen said. "For we all know that large metropolitan areas (have) ability of adjusting to changes more actively than smaller communities."

Over the past several years, Atlanta has desegregated public schools, lunch counters, city facilities, swimming pools, hotels, restaurants and movie houses, and has started hiring Negro firemen. Allen conceded that the city has achieved only a measure of success and said that participation of Negroes has been limited so far.

### Small Amount

As an example, Allen said voluntary elimination of discrimination in Atlanta's leading restaurants had affected only a small percentage of the hundreds of eating places in the city.

The mayor said that if Congress failed to pass a public accommodations bill it would "amount to an endorsement of private businesses setting up an entirely new status of discrimination throughout the nation."

"Failure by Congress to take definite action at this time is by