

Mayor Of Atlanta Asks U.S. Race Law

Washington (UPI)—The mayor of Atlanta Friday 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 Friday on civil rights legislation. South Carolina Gov. Donald S. Russell was scheduled to appear before the Senate group after Allen.

"Cannot Dodge Issue"

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.

"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 con-

tain provisions giving cities and businesses "a reasonable time" to desegregate before the federal government intervened.

Integration Limited

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.

But Allen conceded that the city has achieved only a measure of success and said that participation of Negroes has been limited so far.

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."

Allen described segregation as "slavery's stepchild" and said it was a challenge "to all of us to make every American free in fact as well as in theory."

Three Die in Crash

Hong Kong (UPI) — Three British army officers were killed Thursday when their plane crashed into a mountain near the Communist Chinese border during a flight exercise.



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