

Reds Held Pushing Sitdowns

NEW YORK, June 12 (UPI)—Former President Harry S. Truman said today he was convinced that Southern Negroes involved in sitdown demonstrations were being exploited by Communists.

The students instituting the sitdowns, he said, were "not necessarily Communists themselves.

"I say it was pushed on by a Communist program," Truman said. "That's the kind of program they like to put on. That's exactly what happened."

Appearing on a TV program, Truman defended his recently stated views that the sitdown movement was inspired by Communists.

Way Of Business

"I made the statement that it appeared to me to be Communist inspired because that's the way they do business all the time when they go in and close a small business man up," Truman said.

"I never was for sitdown strikes. Back in 1938 when they first started in the automobile business I was against it 100 per cent when I was in the United States Senate, and I'm still against it."

In answer to a question, Truman said he did not believe that a Negro would be elected president in the lifetime of today's

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Truman Says Reds Inspire Sitdowns

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young people, but he added that he expected a "settlement of the whole situation" concerning civil rights in that length of time.

The issue of segregation, he said has been settled in his home state of Missouri and in Kentucky.

"It can be settled everywhere with common sense and good will," he said. "Negroes will have to become the citizens they should be, and they won't have a bit of trouble, and there are a great many of them like that. I know plenty of them."

On other subjects, Truman said:

He believed that Sen. John F. Kennedy (Mass.) would be the Democratic Party's weakest presidential candidate and that Sen. Stuart Symington (Mo.) would be the strongest, but that any Democrat could defeat Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

He did not think Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's preference for a Democratic president would have any affect on the outcome of the November balloting.

He agreed with New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller that this country is weaker today than it was 15 years ago.

Khrushchev's objective in breaking up the summit conference was to "stir up trouble and he succeeded admirably in doing it, and his attack on the President of the United States is one of the most disgraceful things that happened in public affairs."

He did not believe Adlai E. Stevenson was qualified to be president because "it takes a man who can make a decision right now when he has the facts before him."

He "supposed" there would be another civil rights battle at the Democratic national convention, but noted that the fight in 1948 "didn't hurt the Democrats."

He opposes disarmament until this country is stronger and the world is at peace.

The United Nations is the proper forum for discussions by world powers, not summit conferences.

NEGRO SITDOWN LEADERS DENOUNCE STATEMENT

ATLANTA, June 12 (UPI) — Leaders of the sitdown movement denounced as "irresponsible" and "unfounded" statements by former President Harry S. Truman that the Southwide protest against lunch-counter segregation was Communist inspired. "Social change by nature cre-

ates tension and irresponsible charges of Communist influences increase rather than diminish these tensions and incorrectly credit the Communists with movements toward social justice," said Marlon Barry Jr. of Memphis, Tenn., chairman of the Student Non-violence Coordinating Committee.

Barry released a statement, in which the committee, comprising representatives from 13 states and the District of Columbia, expressed regret over the "continuing and unfounded allegation of Communist direction of the sitdown movement" by Truman.

"The sitdown movement is an attempt to secure for all Americans the rights guaranteed to them in the Constitution and who realize in the United States the goal of a free democratic and responsible society," said the committee statement.