

# Committee Stalemated On Sit-Ins

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LOS ANGELES, June 8—The bitter civil rights battle over Democratic Party recognition of the validity of lunch counter "sit-ins" apparently had reached a stalemate here today, with no one knowing who would come out on top.

The issue has mushroomed into the major controversy before the Democratic Platform Committee session here.

There were reports of a possible compromise that would result in virtually the same civil rights plank that the Democrats had in 1956, with some added language, but Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-NC) said he had no knowledge that a compromise was being effected.

## Situation Confused

Ervin, who in 1956 played a dominant role in getting a plank that was satisfactory to the South, said today that the situation was confused, and that if any solution was in the works he had not been apprised of it.

A militant group of Democratic liberals was driving for a civil rights plank that would recognize sit-ins, which started in Greensboro, N.C., as a peaceful exercise of the historic rights of protest, and "have evinced the deep yearning for equal and democratic treatment."

Clarence Williams, Washington director for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, said that if something isn't said in the platform about sit-ins, the Southern move to block them would in effect be endorsed.

## No "Walkout" Talk

Southern representatives were prepared to carry the civil rights battle to the convention floor if the plank is not to their liking, but there was little talk, at least now, of a "walkout" as there had been in 1952 and 1956 over the issue.

The issue came up on several occasions in today's platform committee sessions, but Ervin said he still didn't know whether

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ie would enter into the fray, except to question other witnesses.

The situation is different now from what it was in 1956. Then there was a definite proposal before the committee, Ervin said.

"Now there is none. Until I know pretty much what they want to do, and it is outlined in more or less specific language, I'm not sure how to attack," he said.

## HOLLINGS MAKES PLEA FOR ACCEPTABLE PLANK

LOS ANGELES, July 8 (AP)—A Southern governor pleaded today for a Democratic platform declaration on civil rights acceptable to the South so Dixie won't feel it has to segregate itself from the party.

South Carolina Gov. Ernest F. Hollings told the convention resolutions committee, "I wouldn't like to be segregated from the Democratic Party."

Hollings, arguing quietly for a civil rights plank couched in general terms, added: "We don't want to bolt the party. We want to get you folks to join us."

A majority of the resolutions group appeared inclined toward drafting a strong plank endorsing equal rights—in education, employment, and voting with enforcement backed by federal powers.

Support for Negro sit-in demonstrators also is being considered, as a recommendation to convention delegates.

Backers of a strong civil rights stand were ready to hop on Hollings with questions as he ended his remarks, but Rep. Chester Bowles of Connecticut, committee chairman, cut off any questioning because of what he said was a time shortage.

The next witness, President George Meany of the AFL-CIO, touched on the racial issue again, however, with an appeal for legislation to guarantee equal treatment for all citizens.

"I happen to believe that civil rights in this country—the fulfillment of America's promise to every citizen—is the No. 1 issue of our time," Meany said.