

NEWS AROUND TOWN

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



This week of June thirteenth to nineteenth, I will describe the dilatory progression of the Civil Rights Bill through Congress.

June 15-The Civil Rights Bill suffers a setback, when the Senate rules out an amendment--the "public accomodations" section--which would outlaw discrimination in hotels, restaurants, and other public-service places.

The vote was 63-23 against the addition of the amendment. Leaders of the fight to defeat the bill included Senator Barry Goldwater, who went on to lose the race for president in 1964 (against Johnson), and Senator Eugene McCarthy, of the infamous McCarthyism "communist fingerpointing" trials.

June 17-The Civil Rights Bill experiences another blow: in another attempt by the Senate to slow down the passing of the bill, Senator Strom Thurmond, a democrat from South Carolina, comes up with another few amendments. Every one of the proposed amendments was voted down by Senate members.

June 18-The Civil Rights Bill finally makes its way past the Senate, and

moves on to President Johnson. Senators' final reactions, summarized in an hour-long speech to Congress, included these two pleas:

-Barry Goldwater claimed to be "unalterably opposed to discrimination of any sort", yet decided to vote against the CR bill on the basis that--according to him--parts of the bill "fly in the face of the Constitution". He said public accommodations of Blacks and equal employment titles were a threat to individual freedom (perhaps his individual freedon of abusing Blacks would be hindered!)

[Governor William Scranton of Pennsylvania broke in to say that Goldwater's opinion on the bill is unfortunate, as it will kill his chances at defeating Johnson. And, indeed, he lost to Johnson.]

-Senator Richard Russell, a democrat from Georgia, said "the moving finger is writing the final act of the longest debate and the greatest tragedy ever played out in the Senate of the United States."

Hmmm, Russell...equal rights for persons of every color is a great



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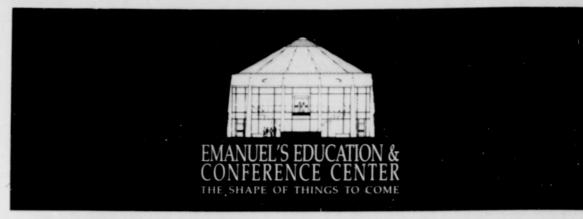
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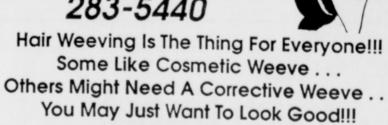
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