

Unpledged Slate Waste Of Ballot Rains States

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AUBURN, Ala. (AP) —Retiring Rep. Albert Rains says Alabama voters supporting a slate of unpledged presidential elector candidates will be wasting their ballots.

Rains told an Auburn University audience Monday night that those electors probably would support someone with no chance of becoming President.

Praising the Democratic Party as the economic savior of the South, Rains said he would rather see Alabama vote Republican in the presidential election than support Gov. George Wallace's unpledged electors.

Rains, who is retiring from the House after the close of his current term, did not mention the governor by name, but some of his remarks obviously were aimed at Wallace.

If Alabama chooses unpledged electors, it will stand alone, Rains said, because there is little likelihood that any other state will choose unpledged electors. Thus, the chance of throwing the election into the House of Representatives is "practically nil," he said.

Turning to the civil rights bill, Rains said the only effective fight against it is being carried on by Southerners in Congress.

"We need to let the people of Alabama know who is really fighting civil rights and not running for office on it," he said, "no one has done more than the congressmen from Alabama to resist the civil rights bill, and if it is changed, as it will be, or if it is watered down, as it will be, it will be because of the efforts of Alabama Democrats in Congress."

"There ought to come a time in Alabama when we quit criticizing our United States government and politicians should quit running for office on the basis of running against their governor," Rains said. "We're still in the Union and Alabama might as well understand that we're going to still be in the Union when all this fiasco is over."

Rains also suggested that Alabama should eliminate "the silly system we have of nominating electors before the conventions choose the candidates for President," and should rewrite the election laws to put the names of the candidates on the ballots. In Alabama, only the names of the nominees for elector go on the ballot.

Rains is supporting a ticket which has promised to vote for President Johnson as the Democratic nominee for reelection. The Wallace slate has refused to pledge itself to the national nominee.

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