

Sanders Forces Shaping Campaign To Court Voters in Urban Areas

By BILL SHIPP

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Former Gov. Carl Sanders is expected to woo the urban voter next year as no other candidate ever has in a campaign for governor.



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The Sanders forces are shaping up a campaign keyed to "people problems" in high density population areas, and they're trying hard to steer a moderate — no, almost liberal — course in dealing with desegregation issues.

Statements by Sanders regarding school desegregation already has several south Georgia political leaders hopping mad in the belief that Sanders will run a "pro-Negro" campaign.

His apparent close alliance with Atlanta Mayor-elect Sam Massell also is not sitting well with old-line down-state Democrats.

(Sanders advised Massell in the closing days of the mayoral campaign on how to handle the

potential scandal involving Massell's campaign fund-raising tactics. And the former governor reportedly scoffed in private at

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GOP Ald. Rodney Cook's failure to seize on the issue and try to discredit Massell.)

But back to the governor's race. Despite criticism from some old pros, the Sanders people still see an urban-suburban oriented campaign as a ticket to victory.

After all, points out one of the top men on the Sanders team, "In 1970, 70 per cent of Georgia's population will be north of the fall line. Sixty per cent of the population will be concentrated in 18 Georgia counties. Fifteen of those counties are in north Georgia. That's where the votes are.

"We're not forgetting the rural areas, of course. But more attention must be paid now than in the past to our urban and suburban areas," says the Sanders man.

Another political showbiz stunt is coming up at high noon Friday when a girl on horseback

from Valdosta State College is due to arrive at the state Capitol with a petition proclaiming Americanism and back the boys in Vietnam. The governor will be on hand to meet her, of course. . . . Howard (Bo) Callaway and Ald. Rodney Cook huddled at lunch Wednesday to discuss Cook's chances of winning as the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor. They concluded that the outlook was

good. . . . Look for Rep. Ben Brown and Rep. Julian Bond to drop out as potential black candidates for Congress now that Vernon Jordon, the Southern Regional Council official, has announced his firm intentions to run.

Compt. Gen. James L. Bentley has decided to make it official Friday. He's expected to announce he won't seek reelection as comptroller general.