

Nixon Speech Angers Black Group Leader

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A co-chairman of the National Black Political Convention yesterday said President Nixon's State of the Union address "declared for all the world to see that black people are officially non-persons, not even to be addressed in a statement for the entire nation."

The President "spoke for about an hour and did not mention equal opportunity," said Gary, Ind., Mayor Richard Hatcher.

"I would like to have seen him talk about employment, about what I think is an artificially contrived energy shortage in which many black people are going to lose their jobs . . . I would predict that over the next few months, the unemployment rate is going to double in the inner cities."

Another item he wished the President had discussed, Hatcher said, was the high gasoline prices that mean "poor and middle class people can't afford to drive."

Hatcher gave his views at a news conference called to discuss the second National Black Political Convention, scheduled for mid-March in Little Rock.

He is one of three co-chairmen of the convention's steering committee, and he said he thinks the issue of black third or fourth parties at a local level will get a lot of serious consideration at this year's meeting. Hatcher, a Democrat, has also criticized his own party's commitment to blacks.

"I don't think the move will be toward a national black party," he said. "Local black parties . . . can have a devastating effect in areas where blacks are in high concentration. I suspect coalitions could be forged with Latins. . ."

Hatcher's remark about the State of the Union message concurred the speech Mr. Nixon delivered on television.

A considerably longer, written message handed to members of Congress and the news media did touch on unemployment and some black issues.

In the written message, Mr. Nixon said he expected unemployment to rise somewhat this year. He also reaffirmed his opposition "to the use of forced busing for purposes of achieving racial balance," although he offered no new proposals on busing.