

Notes on People

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The first black member of the Federal Communications Commission, Ben L. Hooks, defended the use on radio and television of patently racist messages by J. B. Stoner, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Senator in Tuesday's primary election in Georgia. Mr. Stoner finished fifth in the primary, having used commercials referring to blacks as "niggers," Mr. Hooks, attending a Masonic convention in Chattanooga, said that "even if it hurts sometimes, I'm a great believer in free speech and would never do anything to tamper with it." Blacks, Mr. Hooks said, should not "let the emotions of the moment blind them to a citizen's long-standing constitutional guarantee of freedom of speech."