

Post 11-12-68

Abernathy Says He'll Cooperate With Nixon to Aid Reconciliation

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy has said that he will cooperate with the Nixon Administration in its goal of national reconciliation, but he set down some terms for his support.

Mr. Abernathy, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said in a statement in Atlanta over the weekend that he would "do everything in my power . . . to cooperate with the new president."

He added:

"But I must warn that unity cannot be achieved through continued repression of black people and other people. Mr. Nixon must come forth with massive programs to end poverty, enlightened policies against racism, and vigorous efforts for world peace."

Referring to support for Nixon from Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), Mr. Abernathy called on Nixon to "repudiate those who would turn back the clock of history by rewarding racists and reactionaries with appointments to high office and behind-the-scenes positions of influence."

The leader of last summer's Poor People's Campaign in Washington said the campaign "will continue to bring pressure on all levels of government for the meaningful reforms we have demanded."

Mr. Abernathy said he will "be watching Mr. Nixon's conduct of the Presidency very carefully, starting right now."

He congratulated Nixon and Vice President-elect Spiro T. Agnew, saluted Vice President

Humphrey and Sen. Edmund S. Muskie (D-Maine) for their "gallant uphill battle," and said of George C. Wallace and Gen. Curtis LeMay:

"I hope they go into comfortable political retirement."