

The Right to Say 'Nigger'

Seated before a large Confederate flag, Atlanta lawyer and self-avowed racist J. B. Stoner swings confidently into his 30-second television pitch: "I am the only candidate for U.S. senator who is for the white people. I am the only candidate who is against integration..." Last week, Stoner also became the only political candidate in U.S. history to have the contents of his paid TV and radio ads challenged before the Federal Communications Commission. A three-man FCC panel listened to Stoner's message, part of which says: "... the main reason why niggers want integration is because the niggers want our white women." Then the board refused a request by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to ban the ads.

Although Federal law specifically prohibits broadcasters from censoring paid political messages, the NAACP contended that anonymous bomb threats against the two TV stations that show the Stoner ads—WRDW and WTOG—constituted an "imminent threat" to public safety. The stations denied receiving threats. And they contended that when a candidate buys air time, they are legally obliged to let him speak his piece, however distasteful. The FCC agreed, albeit some-

what reluctantly. "However abhorrent some speech might be to the commission," the panel told the NAACP, the FCC must protect the constitutional right of free speech for everyone.



AP
Stoner: 'White people's candidate'

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