

Book Tells of Stern Maddox Order on Marchers

ATLANTA, July 5 (AP) — A biography of Gov. Lester G. Maddox just published, says he ordered State Troopers during the funeral march for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to "shoot them down and stack them up" if marchers attempted to enter Georgia's Capitol.

The book is entitled "The Riddle of Lester Maddox." It was written by Bruce Galphin, an editorial associate for The Atlanta Constitution, and published by Camelot Publishing Company of Atlanta.

Precaution Cited

According to the book, Mr. Maddox issued the order to approximately 200 armed troopers and other law-enforcement officers who patrolled the Capitol grounds and corridors during the march of mourning in April. The 200,000 marchers passed directly in front of the Capitol, which Mr. Maddox had refused to close.

Questioned about the published report, the Governor acknowledged that he had issued an order to prevent marchers from entering the Capitol and said he "could have" used the language attributed to him in the book.

Mr. Maddox said he had received information that an attempt would be made to storm

Reports He Said 'Shoot Them Down' if They Tried to Enter Capitol at Dr. King Rites

the Capitol building during the march, and that he had given the order as a precaution. He denied, however, that he threatened to bring state forces into Atlanta to protect his Pickrick furniture store against a possible firebomb attack after the murder of Dr. King.

Mr. Galphin says in his book that Mr. Maddox told Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. that the store had been threatened, and that if the city did not provide protection state forces would "stack 'em up like cordwood."

The Governor said he had not said that. He said he had received threats about the store and reported them to the city in the usual manner.

Meeting Is Alleged

Mr. Maddox also denied knowledge of an alleged meeting in 1962 at which he and a group of supporters were reported to have arranged several Ku Klux Klan endorsements for his Democratic runoff opponent for Lieutenant Governor, Peter Zack Geer. Mr. Geer defeated Mr. Maddox in the 1962 Democratic

primary runoff for Lieutenant Governor after the two emerged from a nine-man race for the post.

Mr. Galphin's book says that shortly after the first primary, Mr. Maddox met with Dr. Winston Burdine, one of the defeated candidates; Roscoe Pickett, later to become Georgia's Republican national committeeman; James R. Venable, head of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan; and other supporters. He writes that the group arranged to publish a newsletter carrying endorsements for Mr. Geer from three Klan groups.

Mr. Maddox, Mr. Burdine, Mr. Pickett, Mr. Venable and the others hoped that an open Klan endorsement would be "a kiss of death" for Mr. Geer, according to the book.

In response to questions about the reported meeting, Mr. Maddox said, "I don't know anything about it."

Mr. Pickett denied today that he was ever "at any such meeting." Mr. Venable said Mr. Galphin's account was accurate. He said the meeting took place in Mr. Burdine's office.

"The Riddle of Lester Maddox" is described by its publishers as an unauthorized biography. The author reports in the foreword that both Mr. Maddox and his wife declined to be interviewed for the book.