

Support as Vice-President

Evers Plug for Wallace

Jackson, Miss

Civil rights leader Charles Evers says Governor George C. Wallace has changed over the years to the degree that he could support him as a vice presidential candidate on the 1976 national Democratic ticket.

"I can't say I would support him for president," the black mayor of Fayette, Miss., said Saturday. "I think if we hooked George Wallace up with Ted Kennedy or (Senator Walter) Mondale (Dem.-Minn.), we'd have a winner. I think Democrats ought to look at that whether we like it or not."

"Sure, the man is a governor and he represents at least one third of the country's thinking. That's what

we're trying to bring together, the poor whites and blacks, and George Wallace represents the same folks I do — those who have been left out.

"What I respect George Wallace for — I don't agree with him for anything he says — but I respect him for what he'll say in Mississippi, he'll say in New York and California. I have a lot of respect for the man because he's tough. I like tough men.

"I don't know of another governor, including my friend (former New York Governor Rockefeller or Senator Kennedy, a good friend of mine, who would do what George Wallace did."

Evers, who said he had visited and talked with Wallace several times since an assassination attempt partially crippled the governor, said he believed Wallace has changed his die-hard segregationist stance of a decade ago and was "listening" to the black community.

Evers, whose activist brother, Medgar, was shot to death in 1963, said it was the job of all civil rights leaders to change the minds and attitudes of blacks and whites toward each other.

"If I lose all the friends I have in this country because of me trying to get George Wallace to understand we're all just folks, that's okay.

"Our job is to teach folks



CHARLES EVERS
Southern mayor

that don't know. . . ." Evers said. "Once you get a man changed, he fights for what he believes is right. If we change him, and he is beginning to change, then why not accept him?"

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