

## Bond 'not interested' in 1984 nomination

### Georgia's black political leader sounds off after speech to graduating Lynwood students

By Ivan Crosbie

Staff Writer

Georgia State Senator Julian Bond, one of several nationally known black political leaders currently under consideration for nomination as a presidential candidate for 1984, said Thursday night he is definitely "not interested" in getting that nomination.

Senator Bond told Herald Community Newspapers during a reception in his honor sponsored by Lynwood Unified School District in Bateman Hall, Lynwood, that he does not plan to run in 1984 for the office of U.S. president. He said he does not know what the chances are for a black presidential candidate running in 1984.

"I think that anyone who wants to, who is old enough, and fits all the other qualifications can run," the senator said.

"So if I say no one would run, that doesn't mean nobody would," he explained. "Someone we don't even know might be thinking of running. So it's hard to say what is going to happen."

Bond said that the Rev. Jesse Jackson, one of the top civil rights leaders in the country and president of the Operation PUSH organization, has aroused tremendous interest in the idea.

But the idea, he said, is not relatively new because it has been tried before by both Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (D-New York), and civil rights activist Dick Gregory.

What could be new about the idea, he went on, is that it has never been tried by a candidate who has a "lot of money or who could count on support from both black and white Americans."

"So it has been tried before. Whether or not it will be tried next year, I don't know. I don't have the slightest idea."

Some of the other candidates who are being considered for possible nomination include former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Andrew Young; Maynard Jackson, former mayor of the city of Atlanta, Ga., and Rev. Jackson.

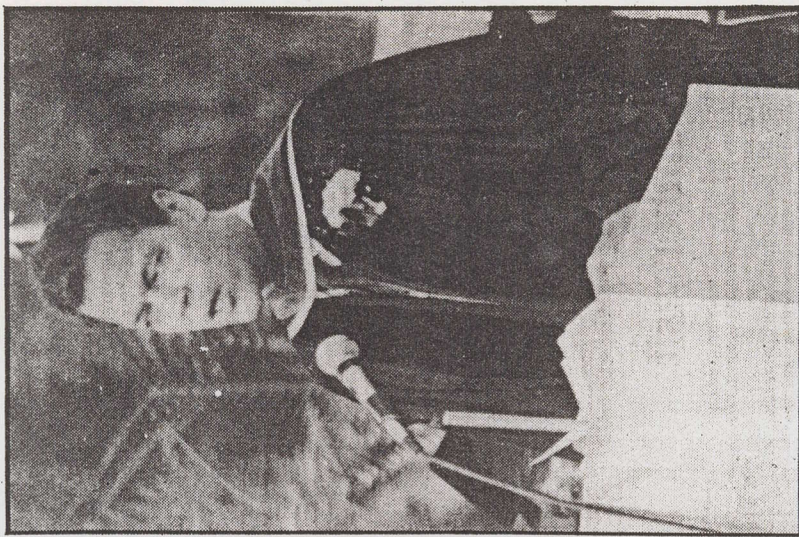
But, according to Bond, Young, who is the current mayor of Atlanta, has already declined the offer. So has former mayor Jackson. The only candidate who has not yet declared his position is Rev. Jackson.

Concerning his future aspirations in politics, Bond said he doesn't know what he wants to do next.

"I've been in elective office for almost 20 years," the senator explained. "I enjoy it a great deal. But I'm not sure that I want to do that for the next 20 years."

"So I don't know. I guess I'm going through that mid-life crisis trying to develop a new career," he said, then adding, "I would like to own a newspaper. That's what I would like to do."

Bond, who maintains awareness of the political process from the local to federal levels of governments, expressed disappointment in the recent changes the Reagan Administration made on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.



... at Lynwood High School graduation

quently became interested in the "mechanics of politics."

"Finally, a chance came along for someone to run for office in Atlanta," he explained. "It was a new district with no incumbent. I saw some people running in other districts. And I said, 'I could do that. I did, and won.' Later he became the youngest man ever nominated for the U.S. vice presidency from the floor of a Democratic Convention. But due to his age, 26, he was disqualified."

"What they are doing is trying to put on the commission three men who are opposed to affirmative action and its goals and quotas," the senator said.

He said the administration wants this to simply appear to be an argument over which is the best way to integrate minorities into the mainstream.

"But that argument has already been settled," he pointed out. "The courts, both the U.S. Supreme Court, the lower federal courts as well as state courts have ruled time and time again that quotas and affirmative action are perfectly proper and perfectly fine."

"So for these three men to be against this idea is to be against the law," the senator said. "They are against what is clearly law."

He feels that what the President is saying by their appointment is that, "I want black people to have equal rights, but I don't want them to have any means of achieving it."

"It's like saying I want you to have a million dollars, but I'm going to keep it in the bank and not let you get it. It's yours but you can't have it."

"That's what he says to us when he put these three men on the Civil Rights Commission," Bond said.

The senator explained that economic and political conditions for blacks have been set back significantly since the Reagan Administration took over. To make sure that such conditions do not continue downward, Bond said that every black man, woman and child should be getting ready for Presidential elections next year.

"That means registering a large number of unregistered people and getting them to vote next year."

"You know, one of the biggest tragedies of 1982 was that Tom Bradley could have been the governor of California," he went on. "He wasn't defeated because white people didn't vote for him, and he wasn't beaten because white people voted against him."

"He was beaten because black people didn't come out to vote for him." He said there were enough blacks who stayed home on election day to have made Bradley governor.

"So we have to make sure that in 1984 that doesn't happen again. That we don't leave all of our troops at home."

"We have to impress on all of our people how important voting is. How important the political process is," he said.

In fact, Bond continued, people who are not registered to vote should be treated as if they have some social disease, like "Uncle Tom's herpes, or Aunt Jemima's gonorrhea. We should say to those people, 'we don't want to be around you or be close to you.'"

Bond was invited to Lynwood Thursday to give the commencement address before 350 graduating students of Lynwood High School.

Dr. Charlie M. Knight, superintendent of Lynwood Unified School District, said that his speech had a tremendous impact on the students and audience, especially the minorities, because they were able to relate to his description of the effects the economy has on minorities.

Knight said that essentially Bond's message was that "things are not too rosy, but they are not so bad that we can't do something about them."

The senator said he became interested in politics after he began working in voter registration campaigns to help blacks register and vote.

Then he began to work in other people's political campaigns and conse-