

CA Sun Oct 26, 1975

Higgs Levels Blast At Chandler Signs

Mayor Wyeth Chandler's campaign signs should read: "Atlanta — 4 pro teams, Memphis—" and "San Francisco — Fisherman's Wharf, Memphis — Elvis Presley's home," W. Otis Higgs, Chandler's opponent for election as mayor Nov. 6, said yesterday.

Higgs spoke to a sympathetic, enthusiastic audience of several hundred at the third anniversary celebration of Operation PUSH at Monumental Baptist Church at 704 South Parkway East.

"What in the world are we No. 1 in?" he asked, then answered his own rhetorical question: "We're No. 1 in nothing."

Higgs said Chandler has used a "slick, Madison Avenue-type of campaign" that is "intellectually dishonest."

He said the mayor has taken credit for the fact that the city has had no tax increases, although, he said, Chandler tried to institute increases in property taxes, the garbage fee and the sales tax.

"I say we're going to stop that and take honesty and truthfulness to City Hall," he said.

Roscoe Dixon Jr., a candidate for City Council Position 1 at large also spoke, mainly urging the all-black audience to be sure to vote. "This is our opportunity to begin the development of our community," he said.

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Expressway Push Is Hit By Mayors

WASHINGTON (AP) — A task force of Conference of Democratic Mayors said Saturday that a "misplaced emphasis on expressways" has contributed to decay of the nation's urban areas over the past 20 years.

The statement drafted by Mayors Richard G. Hatcher of Gary, Ind., and Lee Alexander of Syracuse, N.Y., said more than \$230 billion has been spent by all areas of government since the late 1940s on highways while mass transit was "treated as a private business rather than a public service."

"During this time," they said, "fundamental changes were taking place in urban America. Pollution, sprawl, ugliness, business, business decay, tax losses and homeless people were left in the wake of the relentless bulldozer building highways."

The task force recommended federal help in planning and developing a balanced transportation system and called for both the rebuilding of existing mass transit systems and the construction of new ones.

The proposals will be considered by Democratic mayors at a conference in Miami Beach on Nov. 30.