Thomas Blasts Campaign Conduct, Supports LBJ - Humphrey Ticket

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“This campaign is being run on the lowest level in my memory,” began socialist Norman Thomas in a Tuesday night campus appearance sponsored by the Rice Forum Committee.

In a speech often broken by applause or occasional heckling, the aged veteran of six Presidential campaigns gave his views on the current campaign.

In his first direct mention of the Republican candidate, Thomas charged Goldwater of appealing to racism. “I don’t know that Mr. Goldwater really respects the Negro.”

“There is a conservatism that could be very well stated, and it would gain my respect, but not my support,” he said. “But civil rights ought not even be a campaign issue.”

States’ Rights

Thomas attacked the argument of states’ rights applied to civil liberties: “People are the units of society.” Then he termed states’ rights “the subordination of individuals to states.”

“I am supporting the Johnson-Humphrey ticket although I’m a socialist,” Thomas stated. When asked what he thought would be the effect of his support, he replied, “It will be immensely beneficial.” He added, “I am part of the way with LBJ.”

Thomas charged the Republican nominee with voting against progressive legislation “because he knows in his heart.”

‘In His Heart’

When discussing the Senator’s motive for running, the speaker jibed, “He knew in his heart things were wrong, and right was right.” Similar comments continued to amuse the audience throughout the address.

Sporadic heckling from the audience didn’t start, however, until Mr. Thomas began speaking of the Socialist Party platform.

Boos were mixed with the applause that greeted his first