

state

Politician rejoins Republicans

United Press International ARLINGTON — Rep. Clay Smothers, the black politician who became the darling of conservatives through his anti-busing stands and support of George Wallace's presidential campaign, announced Monday he was switching from the Democratic to Republican Party.

Smothers, originally a Republican who switched to the Democrats after losing a 1970 election to the Legislature, said at a news conference he decided to switch back to the GOP because he "found himself more in line with Republican thinking than with those who are in the leadership in the Democratic Party."

"As a Democrat, I have felt more and more uneasy as I have observed the party structure and spokesmen embracing the old 'tax and spend' ethic in direct contradiction to the wishes of the electorate," Smothers said.

"There is one thing about Clay Smothers that everyone can agree on, and I'm quite proud of: My record is consistently conservative. The philosophy of the Republican Party is my philosophy — less government, lower taxes, with more individual freedom and responsibility."

"I hope to work with the Republican Party to show my good Democratic friends, both black and white, that the party of the daddy and granddaddy has left them. The Republican Party is our future."

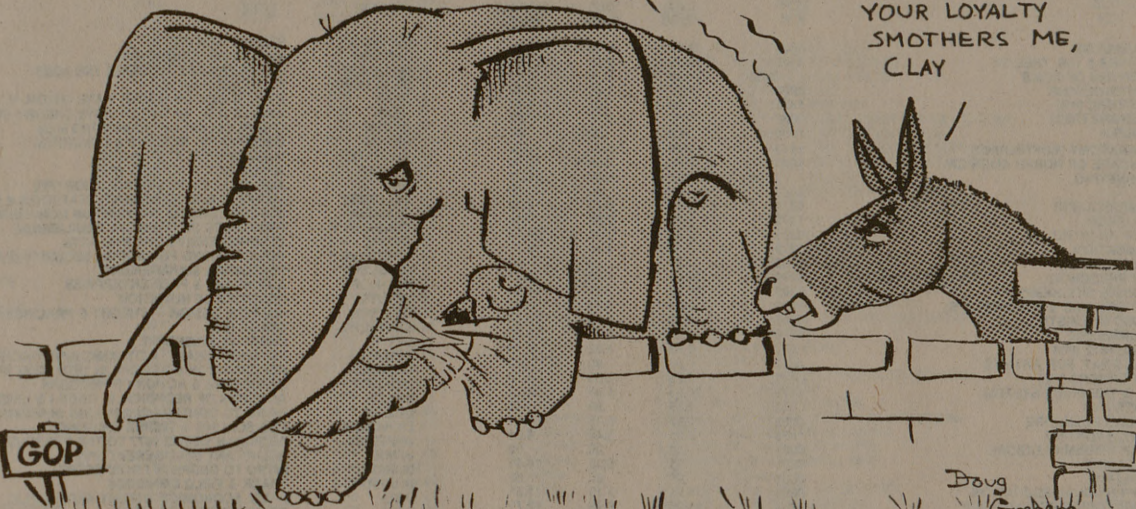
Smothers hinted strongly he was considering running for the 24th District Congressional seat currently held by Rep. Martin Frost, D-Texas, and said he would announce his decision in mid-January.

He said Leo Berman, the last GOP candidate against Frost, already had offered Smothers his support.

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Mexico deserted us during Iranian crisis, Bentsen says

United Press International WASHINGTON — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, Monday charged Mexico deserted the United States during the Iranian crisis "at a time when we most needed some help."

Bentsen, long a friend of Mexico and chairman of the Senate delegation to the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Conference for the past four years, warned that Mexico cannot count on U.S. cooperation in trade while defying its neighbor on Iran.

dent Lopez Portillo of making a "concerted effort to undermine the American position in Iran" — singling out Portillo's criticism of the freeze on Iranian funds in the United States and his suggestions that a different world currency be substituted for the dollar in international payments.

"The Mexicans really cannot have it both ways," Bentsen said. "They cannot count on our future cooperation in vital areas such as trade while courting our enmity on an issue as sensitive and compelling for America as the crisis in Iran."

"We are willing to do our part, to go more than half way," Bentsen added. "But we are not prepared to be patsies for Mexican political leaders who like to court public opinion by tweaking the nose of Uncle Sam."

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In a Senate speech, Bentsen said, "All rhetoric about friendship notwithstanding, it has become apparent that self-interest, narrowly defined, is the driving force in Mexican attitudes toward the Iranian crisis."

"At a time when we most needed some help, our neighbors to the south have turned their backs on the United States and resorted to political sniping," Bentsen added.

The Texas senator denounced Mexico for having "renege" on prior assurances it would let the shah back into the country after completing medical treatment in the United States.

"It demonstrates the extent to which Mexico, a nation prone to demand concessions from this country as a matter of right, is prepared to accept the responsibilities as well as the advantages of friendship," he said.

Bentsen accused Mexican Presi-

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