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# AFL-CIO Head Defends Prof. Silver's Talk

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Claude Ramsey, state AFL-CIO head, accused Rep. John Bell Williams, D-Miss., of "demagoguery" Tuesday for his insistence on the resignation of a University of Mississippi professor.

Williams Monday said Dr. James W. Silver should be removed from Ole Miss for the educator's verbal attacks on the state.

Ramsay defended Silver's right to his opinion even though some of Silver's remarks were "adversely affecting organized labor."

Silver, in a speech at Asheville, N.C., last Thursday described Mississippi as a "closed society" where the white man does not dare speak out.

Williams told the Mississippi LP Gas Dealers Monday "Silver has bitten the hand which fed him for 28 years. It's time we called his bluff and get rid of him."

Ramsay said he read Silver's speech "in its entirety" and "all thinking Mississippians (should) do likewise before passing judgment on this matter."

The labor leader said Williams was "the most ineffective member of the Congress.

"He serves no useful purpose in Washington unless one considers his unofficial position as chief spokesman for the Birch Society and other lunatic fringe groups that appear hell-bent on destroying all semblance of freedom and democracy in our state and nation." Ramsay said.

"A simple contrast exists in this situation: Silver, a historian, must deal in facts while Williams can display his usual brand of demagoguery," Ramsay said.

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