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Gov. Johnson Out To Change National Image

By CLIFF SESSIONS
JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 25.—(UPI)—Gov. Paul B. Johnson has set out to change his national image.

That is why his inaugural address had a tone of moderation foreign to the stump speeches he delivered last summer.

Governor Johnson billed himself during the gubernatorial campaign as a national symbol to resistance to Federal integration orders.

He boasted when national publications referred to him as the most defiant and vociferous segregationist in the race.

He said the state "stirred the admiration of the world by her spirited stand against the Federal invaders" during the Ole Miss integration showdown, and he repeatedly pointed to his part in the showdown.

All this helped to give Governor Johnson the candidate's image he desired among voters.

Now he is working for the governor's image he desires among Americans. He believes the different image would be beneficial in the continuing effort to make economic gains for Mississippi.

Governor Johnson had his national image in mind when he sat down to write his inaugural address. "Hate, or prejudice, or ignorance will not lead Mississippi while I sit in the Governor's chair," he wrote. He also put in a reminder that "we are Americans as well as Mississippians."

Johnson the Governor sounded more like Johnson the candidate later in the speech when he vowed to fight "with every fiber of my being" any authority which he considers morally or constitutionally wrong.

Still, the address as a whole carried a moderate tenor which was not in evidence while the Governor's race was being run.