NEGRO LAWYER RUNS FOR CONGRESS SEAT FROM GEORGIA

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - Attorney C. B. King of Albany, Georgia qualified here April 4, 1964 to run for the Democratic Congressional nomination.

He is the first Negro to run for Congress in modern times from Georgia.

Attorney King, who has been active in civil rights cases throughout southwest Georgia, will run in the September 9 primary from the 2nd District. He will face one of his courtroom opponents, Maston O’Neal, solicitor general of the Albany Judicial Circuit, who has also filed to run for the seat now held by incumbent Representative J. L. Pilcher.

King, 40, is a graduate of Fisk University, and was admitted to the Ohio bar after being graduated from Western Reserve University Law School. He returned to his hometown, Albany, and was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1953. He has practiced law in Albany for eight and one half years, and handled most of the cases from the massive demonstrations in that city two summers ago. His brother, Slater King, is president of the Albany Movement, and was a candidate for Mayor of Albany last fall.

The 2nd District’s 14 counties cast a total of 18,987 votes for representative in 1962. The district’s total population is 301,123, with 184,096 whites and 116,992 Negroes. Median income for all families in the district is $3,114, while Negro median income is $1,771.

In July, 1963, Sheriff D. C. “Cull” Campbell of Dougherty County (Albany) broke a walking stick over Attorney King’s head. Campbell admitted striking King and said “I’m a white man and he’s a nigger. Yes, I knocked hell out of him and I’d do it again.”

King successfully argued the controversial Brazier case before the United States Supreme Court which decided favorably for an important procedural point. James Brazier, a Negro, was allegedly illegally arrested in June, 1958 and bludgeoned while in the custody of Sheriff Z. T. Matthews of Terrell County. He died four days later. The United States Supreme Court ruled that the right to sue for damages pertained to Brazier’s widow, although the grand jury returned a verdict favorable to the law officer.

King also handled the case of Charles Ware, a Negro who was arrested and shot three times by the Sheriff of Baker County in July, 1960. An all-white jury decided for the Sheriff in a damage suit filed by Ware.

Georgia’s 2nd District includes Baker, Dougherty, Randolph, Terrell and Worth Counties, in which workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) have conducted voter registration campaigns.

King, a veteran, said he believed “affirmative leadership has been conspicuously lacking in Georgia’s politics” and that he felt he had much to offer “white and Negro residents of the district.”

He said he thought voters in the district were ready to vote for a qualified candidate regardless of race.