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# Helms Prosecution Rapped

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Former CIA Director George Bush said Monday he disapproves of the prosecution of his predecessor, Richard M. Helms, who pleaded no contest last week to a charge of failing to testify fully before a Senate committee.

"My view was that Mr. Helms should not have been prosecuted," Bush said in a press conference in Atlanta.

However, Bush added that the Carter administration "inherited a very difficult situation," and "the solution appears to have been a very moderate one."

He said his main reason for opposing the prosecution "has to do with national security." He would not elaborate.

Helms pleaded no contest to a re-

duced charge in exchange for leniency. He was fined \$2,000 and received a year's probation after being accused of failing to tell a Senate committee all he knew about covert CIA operations in Chile.

On another matter, Bush, who was here to address the Atlanta Rotary Club, criticized several policy decisions of the Carter administration.

"I do have some serious reservations," Bush said, about President Carter's actions in such areas as withdrawal of U.S. troops from Korea, the proposed Panama Canal treaties, junking of the B-1 bomber and U.S. positions in the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

However, the former Republican national chairman added, "I hope I can

be a constructive critic rather than a carping outsider."

Bush, who recently revisited China (he was chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking in 1973 and 1974), said the government there "is concerned (about whether) the U.S. is a paper tiger." He said the Chinese worry about the U.S. commitment to "stand up" to the Soviet Union.

Bush said he expects the United States will expand its trade with Red China in the future.

Speaking of his own future, Bush admitted he is "interested in the national political scene," but he would not specify what office if any he might run for in 1978 or 1980. At present, Bush is in private business in Houston.



Staff Photo—Hugh Stovall

**'DIFFICULT SITUATION'**  
George Bush