

The Melting Pot Becomes Stew Pot

THE melting pot of this country has become a stew pot. As ethnic minorities have been legally assimilated into the population they have been succeeded by special interests trying to remake America.

The hundreds of political action groups, called by various names, caused a Washington observer to declare a few years ago that "America is no longer a nation. It is a committee of lobbies."

These groups keep score on how individual congressmen vote and campaign for one or another candidate on that basis. Congressmen often seem to pay more attention to the clink of dollars and militant demonstrators than they listen to their constituents.

The recent "March on Washington" by civil rights demonstrators was referred to as a continuation of a similar event 20 years ago, when it was called "America's third revolution — the Negro revolution." The rights movement is much more than race, however.

The demonstration attracted other groups looking for attention —

supporters of homosexual rights, advocates of animal rights, anti-nukes, socialists who oppose profits in business and agriculture, and the Industrial Workers of the World, the "Wobblies" of World War I.

Teachers have organized and unionized to advance their political and economic ideas.

The Moral Majority may be less prominent than it was a couple of years ago but it is still present, as it always has been.

The ideal of a cleaner world in 1970 was preempted by extremists and environmentalism is now personified as opposition to use of nuclear power and much of this nation's natural resources.

"I want to change the course of America," said James Watt, secretary of the interior, some weeks ago. "The battle's not over the environment... They want to control social behavior and conduct."

Feminists also are trying to revolutionize America. At the National Women's Political Caucus in San Antonio in July one said: "We are on the brink of an explosion of woman

power."

Last month a union spokesman said: "If the whole labor movement gets behind a candidate in the primaries, it will tip the scales for that candidate," referring to the 1984 elections.

In a published interview the president of the League of United Latin American Citizens stated: "We (Hispanics) will play a greater role in shaping the social, political and economic trends in this country as our population doubles to 40 or 50 million people by the end of this century."

These are only samples of objectives being held out by special interest groups and their leaders, nearly all of whom seem to think the country could be run better if they were in charge.

We don't know what the United States of America will be like by the year 2000 but if any of these organizations change things as they hope our form of government certainly will be different. Even a compromise could take away many of our freedoms.