

Gramm flays 'quota' system

As prez, he'd nix affirmative action

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WASHINGTON — Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, soon to become a presidential candidate, said yesterday that if elected, he would repeal all executive orders on

quotas, preferential treatment and set-asides. Everyone in the United States, he said, should have an equal opportunity, re-

gardless of his or her color or gender.

"If I become president, I will go back to the merit system," Gramm said.

Speaking to reporters at a National Press Club briefing, Gramm commented on affirmative action when asked about a proposal in Congress, championed by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., to study all federal laws and presidential directives that may discriminate against white men.

Dole, who also is seeking his party's nomination for the 1996 presi-

dential elections, has asked the Congressional Research Service for a "comprehensive list of every federal statute, regulation, program, and executive order that grants a preference to individuals on the basis of race, sex, national origin or ethnic background."

Although most of the civil-rights legislation in the United States has been enacted by Congress, and in some cases affirmed or altered by the courts, one key provision passed three decades ago by presidential decree could be rescinded by an order from the White House. ■