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approx. 5500 words

1964

unpublished

### A Guide to Mississippi

"The only real and truly white state left in this nation is ours," Mississippi Governor Paul B. Johnson exclaimed last December, one month after his election.

And indeed it is. Every bit of energy in the state--except for an alliance of civil rights groups in Jackson called COFO (Council of Federated Organizations)--is devoted to not only keeping Mississippi a "white state", but to strengthening the forces of segregation and white supremacy.

Because of this Mississippi is a unique entity, a "sovereign state" which tries to ignore the rest of the country, but does not refuse benefits from Washington. An area which has the same phases of life as the other 49 states, but which has twisted them into something that Mississippians in power may relish, but would make others reel back in abhorrence. One idea weaves through everything: white-only.

Other states have churches, maybe even a few with odd philosophies. But only one philosophy is prevalent in Mississippi churches: segregation.

Early last year, John Satterfield, a Yazoo City attorney who was lay leader of the Mississippi delegation to the General Conference of the Methodist Church in Pittsburgh, declared, "We can support the church as long as the segregated system is maintained."

Speaking before the same group, Dr. Medford Evans warned, "The Methodist Church has drifted into an extremely dangerous devotion to racial integration and nuclear disarmament. Integrationists are victims of an emotional disorder and live in a world of fantasy." In his world, Evans serves as co-ordinator of the John Birch Society, secretary of the States' Rights Party of Louisiana, consultant to the White Citizens' Council, and a member of the Citizens' Council in at least seven states, and father of M. Stanton Evans, editor of the Indianapolis News.

The group Satterfield and Evans were appearing before was the Mississippi Association of Methodist Ministers and Laymen. MAMML was "organized in 1951 as an unofficial group of Methodists," it says of itself, "whose aim is to rid the churches of socialistic-Marxist material in its literature and publications and to maintain segregation."

The president of MAMML is Garner M. Lester who also keeps busy as a watchdog over Mississippi's way of life as chairman of the public affairs committee of the Jackson Citizens' Council and as a member of the advisory board of Mississippi's largest bank. Secretary-treasurer of the Methodist group is John R. Wright who is also chairman of the membership and finance committee of the Jackson Citizens' Council and a colonel for Gov. Paul Johnson.

When 28 Methodist ministers, all native Mississippians, said they were opposed to segregation because "Jesus Christ teaches that all men are brothers," MAMML, ever watchful for such unchristian moves, said their statement does not accurately reflect the wishes of the majority of Mississippi's Methodists. MAMML also declared that integration was "a crime against God."



More recently, MAMML attacked a religious group for "giving aid and comfort to race-mixers in the Methodist Church."

Since MAMML's conception close to a hundred seminary-trained Methodist ministers have been driven from the state because of their views.

But the Baptists aren't pure either. Last April, Rev. Paul Jackson, speaking before the American Council of Churches convening in Jackson, explained, "The Southern Baptist Convention is past the point of no return on its drift toward liberalism."

Mississippi Baptists will obviously have no part of such liberalism. In fact, last year in annual session, the Mississippi Baptist Convention refused to endorse a resolution which reaffirmed "our intelligent good will toward all men" and which called upon Christians to pray "that we may live consistent with Christian citizenship."

The non-recognition by Mississippi of churches outside the state was further exemplified when, last spring, an interracial group of seven ministers from out of the state were arrested when they tried to worship at a Methodist Church in Jackson. The ministers were charged with disturbing public worship and trespassing on church property.

When all hope is lost, as happened last spring with a group of Episcopalians, Mississippians can always start their own church. Paul J. Brannan, senior warden of the group said they would have "no affiliation with the National or World Council of Churches, will use the King James translation of the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, and will repudiate current trends of the Episcopal clergy toward socialism and integration of the races."

Besides being spiritually committed to segregation, Mississippians must also be mentally committed to it--which means they must have the right education; and no education is better than the wrong education. The "wrong education" is what the United States Supreme Court demanded in 1954 and Mississippi reacted

by abolishing its compulsory school attendance law and making it mandatory that schools be closed rather than integrated. The state also passed a law providing for a fine or a jail sentence for any white person attending a school also attended by Negroes and passed another law calling on all elected officials to preserve segregation.

James Meredith is the only real stain on the state's lilly-white schools. But Mississippi officials certainly tried to keep him out of Ole Miss. A month before the bloody riot, state senator E. K. Collins stood in the upper house and proclaimed, "We must win this fight regardless of the cost in time, effort, money and in human lives."

And the cost even included human lives but only in Mississippi will Americans learn that it was the federal marshalls who shot and killed that French newsman so that Europe wouldn't find out the truth about what was going on in Mississippi.

But if one knew about Negroes what Mississippians know, one might not want to go to school with them either.

According to Gov. Paul Johnson African Negroes "sit around sharpening their teeth on rocks to tear human flesh."

And a Mississippi newspaper recently told its readers that Africans "have just quit eating one another and have just started wearing clothes."

Early this year state senator Corbett Patridge explained, "It is not necessary to prejudge a Negro or for him to prejudge a white man. We both know that each exists and that we each have a line of thought. Mine is to work and build for the future. His is to work and enjoy the fruits of his labor and to make every Saturday night Christmas eve."

This is why former Gov. Ross Barnett said that segregation is needed "to avoid mongrelization and to maintain the purity and the integrity of both races."



So that no one disrupts the stability of this segregated society, the state carefully selects textbooks to use in public schools. But still these don't tell the right story--outsider's just don't seem to be able to do anything right--so the Citizens' Council prepared its own readers. The reader for third and fourth grades explained;

God wanted the white people to live alone. And he wanted colored people to live alone. The white men built America for you. White people built America so they could make the rules. George Washington was a brave and honest white man. The white men cut away big forests. The white man has always been kind to the Negro. We do not believe that God wants us to live together. Negro people like to live by themselves. Negroes use their own bathrooms. They do not use white people's bathrooms. The Negro has his own part of town to live in. This is called our Southern Way of Life. Do you know that some people want the Negroes to live with white people? These people want us to be unhappy. They say we must go to school together. They say we must swim together and use the bathroom together. God had made us different. And God knows best. Did you know that our country will grow weak if we mix the races? White men worked hard to build our country. We want to keep it strong and free.

And from the fifth and sixth grade reader;

The Southern white man has always helped the Negro whenever he could. Southerners were always their best friends. The South went to war to prevent the races from race-mixing. If God had wanted all men to be one color and to be alike, He would not have made the different races. One of the main lessons in the Old Testament of the Bible is that your race should be kept pure. God made different races and put them in different lands. He was satisfied with pure races so man should keep the races pure and be satisfied. BIRDS DO NOT MIX. CHICKENS DO NOT MIX. A friend had 100 white chickens and 100 reds. All the white chickens got to one side of the house, and all the red chickens got on the other side of the house. You probably feel the same way these chickens did whenever you are with people of a different race. God meant it to be that way.

But some Mississippians do not even want segregated Negroes. Last January, Earnest Watson wrote in an editorial in the Jackson Times, "If the Negro wants to leave the South, that would be the best thing the South could have; then it would become a white man's paradise."

The Negroes that the state has the greatest desire to see leave are the "uppity" ones. If there's one thing the state doesn't want it's "uppity" Negroes, or "uppity" whites for that matter.



"Over 98 percent of Mississippi's population are native born Americans with less than 2 percent being foreign born," the Area Development Department of Mississippi Power and Light Co. proudly explains. "These people are free thinkers and not easily steered to the 'left'. You will find no radical or 'ism' groups in the state."

The management of a new factory in Natchez observed: "They all seem to have the right attitude and are willing to learn and work with management 100 percent. They are 'All American' and this, I think, helps a lot."

However, some workers still get "un-American" ideas and try to form unions. But true Mississippians know how to handle them. For example, in August of last year, four days before an NLRB election, a plant put up posters showing a Negro woman saying to a white woman: "Mr. Kennedy and the union man says we'uns must work with you'uns." The union lost the election.

Thus the Mississippi Agriculture and Industrial Board could report, "In the few elections held during the 1950-55 period, the union won relatively fewer elections and got relatively fewer votes than in elections held in other areas."

The state and local communities will go to any steps to bring industry to the state, even give them tax-free land, with a structure already built upon it. Bonds are then floated for the land and building. In one instance, a company bought the bonds themselves and made a profit.

A section of land along the gulf coast had been given to Mississippi by the federal government for the purpose of building schools on the property. But Mississippi is never one to be told what to do by the federal government so in 1961 the Mississippi legislature and then Mississippi voters approved two constitutional amendments. The first changed the status of the land, the second exempted oil refineries from taxation. Standard Oil then built a refinery on the land.

Mississippi taxes its citizens, not its industries. Still, the Mississippi Agriculture and Industrial Board believes, "Mississippi has an enviable record for maintaining good government and paying for it through a fair and equitable tax system ably administered."

Mississippi gets over fifty percent of its revenue from the state sales tax of 3 percent. Towns levy an additional 0.5 to 1 percent. A driver's license costs \$2 a year and may be raised. Car owners have to pay an annual motor vehicle inspection charge plus ad valorem taxes, privilege taxes and municipal taxes in addition to the cost of car tags which is figured on the basis of the car's value and engine size. Car tags for a new, medium-priced car cost about \$80. And each time the driver purchases a gallon of gas he pays 7¢ state tax and 1¢ sales tax in addition to 4¢ federal tax.

The state is also considering more unique ways of taxing its citizens. Last April, Rep. John Hough of Sunflower County introduced a bill to place a 10 percent tax on soft drinks and a 20 percent tax on soft drink syrup sales.

Another source of income for the state is a black market liquor tax which is collected by a governmental department. Sen. Ellis Bodron of Vicksburg explains, "The legislature has refused to legalize whiskey and the people have refused to permit enforcement of the prohibition laws."

As a result, liquor is more common than beer which is only legal in some counties. Along the gulf coast beer is illegal, but stores, bars, restaurants all sell liquor openly.

An attempt to legalize liquor last spring failed. And the chance for legalization in the future is slim. When the wets can have their whiskey and the dries can have their prohibition laws, why should anyone want to change things.

A large percentage of additional funds comes from the federal government. For example in the first nine months of 1963, Mississippi received from the federal government close to \$200 million for military and defense purposes alone.



Nevertheless, Mississippi feels it could live independent of the rest of the country, or live as part of an independent South. As Earnest Watson wrote in the Jackson Times last January: "If the remainder of the Nation wants to secede from the South, that also would be a windfall whereby the South would rise to the occasion, put in its own factories, spend its money in the South, and become an economic paradise."

One federal program the state still participates in to some extent is urban renewal, but there's a reason.

Early in the year there was a discussion in the house on the pros and cons of urban renewal. Those opposed, claimed the program would further integration. Those supporting it, claimed it could be used to maintain segregation.

"As freakish as it may sound," Mayor George Howell of Aberdeen explained, "we are using urban renewal to maintain segregation."

Senator J. P. Dean said his town, Corinth, would use urban renewal funds to relocate 82 Negro families "who live within a block of our white high school. We can move them near the Negro school and solve a potentially serious situation."

Enough said. Though the house passed a bill outlawing participation in urban renewal programs, it exempted Aberdeen, Corinth and two other towns who knew how to do things the Mississippi way.

Meanwhile in McComb, officials were devising their own "urban renewal" program. They began an attempt to de-annex a Negro section of the city.

If this and other political debates sound one sided, it must be remembered that there is no opposition party in Mississippi.

Senator Eastland has admitted that he is "proud of the one-party system, because that one-party system was used to defeat the carpetbaggers and scalawags one hundred years ago and it still serves its purpose perfectly."

The Mississippi House of Representatives made this opinion formal in August, 1963, when they passed a resolution declaring: "We are unalterably opposed to



the formation of a two-party system in Mississippi because of the division of the white qualified electors and the inherent danger of the minority block becoming the balance of power."

More honestly, a policeman in Ruleville told a campaign worker for a Negro candidate in early 1964, "We don't have no nigger politics in Ruleville."

Paul B. Johnson clearly explained the dangers. "The birth of a two-party system in the state," he warned, "would divide the conservative white vote. Then Mississippi would have to reap the whirlwind harvest of racial discord, more socialism, more taxes, more Negro participation in government and more integration."

Johnson and Carroll Gartin, candidate for lieutenant governor, issued a joint statement in October, 1963, detailing the situation Mississippi found itself in:

"Mississippi stands today as the only state in the American union whose public institutions are totally and completely segregated. The backbone of white control and constitutional, conservative government in our state has been and is the one party system. Under this system Mississippi has been able thus far to preserve our customs, traditions, and particular way of life here in the South.

"The creation and maintenance of a so-called two party system in Mississippi is the most deadly peril facing our people since reconstruction. The end of the one party system in our state would foretell the abandonment of Mississippi's noble fight for the rights of the states, the integrity of its races, and constitutional government."

Mississippi Democrats go all out to destroy Republicans, and the means may be verbal...or legal...or illegal. Last March someone broke into the office of Stanford E. Morse, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor in the 1963 general election. Only one thing was stolen from the office: a drawer containing records of persons who contributed to his campaign.

Official Paul Johnson campaign literature further explains the Mississippi political picture.

"To have Mississippi Democratic nominees and Republican nominees running for every public office every four years would constitute an unnecessary nuisance and would bring to Mississippi the same political evils and dangers that now beset such states as Illinois, New York, Michigan, Pennsylvania and California.\*\*\*Mississippi has no need for a two party system that would divide our people and stretch our political campaigning over many additional months and resulting expense, confusion and disunity. \*\*\*Both the National Republican Party and the National Democratic Party are the dedicated enemies of the people of Mississippi.\*\*\*Both parties threaten our Mississippi traditions, institutions and segregated way of life.\*\*\*The Mississippi Democratic Party is not subservient to any national party. It has its own statement of principles\*\*\*and these are in direct conflict with the position of both national parties.\*\*\*We do not have to belong to and participate in an integrated national party, which tolerates in its ranks radical leftists like Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Senator Jacob Javits of New York and 'Black Monday' Earl Warren, in order to cast Mississippi's electoral votes for a true conservative."

In 1960, all 8 unpledged Mississippi Democratic electors cast their votes for Sen. Harry F. Byrd of Virginia.

In 1962 a resolution was entered in the senate titled: A concurrent resolution declaring and recording the contempt of the Mississippi legislature for the Kennedy administration and its puppet courts; calling upon its sister states to join in ridding this once great nation of the Kennedy family dynasty and accompanying evils; and for related purposes.

More simply in 1963 the Magnolia State Quartet sang Paul Johnson's campaign song:

"Up there on the wide Potomac,  
Kennedy Democrats done gone mad,  
But so help me, I believe,  
The GOP is just as bad."

The one party system continues to exist because Mississippi carefully controls those who vote.

Since 1954 voter applicants have been required by law to read, write and interpret any section of the state constitution.



"The amendment is intended solely to limit Negro registration," admitted Robert B. Patterson, executive secretary of the Association of Citizens' Councils.

Since 1960 applicants have been required to be of good moral character and to have their names and addresses published in a local paper for two weeks.

"This is not aimed at keeping white people from voting no matter how morally corrupt they may be," explained the Jackson State-Times. "It is an ill-disguised attempt to keep qualified Negroes from voting."

The Association of Citizens' Councils reported how these laws came about: "Although this same amendment failed to pass in 1952, it passed by a tremendous majority (in 1954) when the people of Mississippi, through the Citizens' Councils, were informed of the necessity and reason for the passage of this amendment."

The legislature thought of other voting restrictions too. Dr. James Silver, professor of history at the University of Mississippi, has written: "The House unanimously called for a constitutional amendment barring from voting persons guilty of vagrancy, perjury, and child desertion, and concurred in the addition of adultery, fornication, larceny, gambling, and crimes committed with a deadly weapon. A still further addition of habitual drunkenness was defeated when a member suggested that it 'might even get some of us.' There was some objection, also, to the inclusion of adultery."

Last February in Madison County over three hundred Negroes stood in line at the court house over a two day period to take the registration test. Registrar L. F. Campbell only processed seven of them, although he has registered as many as 49 whites in one day. In the county, 97 percent of the whites are registered but only slightly more than 1 percent of the Negroes. Besides registrar Campbell and the state's laws acting as deterrents, there also is a red, blue and grey sticker on Campbell's office door. It bears the Confederate flag and the message, "Support Your Citizens' Council".

Other times the deterrent hasn't been as sophisticated.

Three years ago, Herbert Lee, a Negro active in voter registration activities, was shot to death by a member of the state legislature--also a member of the Citizens' Council. "Justifiable homicide" a coroners jury called it. Early this year, a Negro witness to the killing was also murdered.

Back in 1955, a Negro, Lamar Smith, was urging other Negroes to vote in a gubernatorial election. He was shot to death on the Brookhaven courthouse lawn. A grand jury refused to indict the three men who were charged with the slaying.

In Rankin County, February of last year, the sheriff and two deputies assaulted in the court house three Negroes who were applying to register, driving the three out before they could even finish the form.

As Mississippi political leaders explain, Mississippi Negroes aren't interested in voting.

The Citizens' Council is but one organization in Mississippi, a highly organized state, but it is the one that controls the state. The council was started in Indianola, July, 1954, when 14 citizens met, organized by Robert B. Patterson, a plantation manager in Greenwood. Within six weeks, the council was operating in 17 counties. By the end of the year, there were councils in over 100 cities in the state. Today, most leading businessmen are leading council members and about one-third of the counties have at least one representative who is a council member.

It is no wonder then that Hodding Carter, Pulitzer Prize winning editor of the Greenville, Miss., Delta Democrat-Times, could write that the "legislature represents probably the lowest common denominator of any political assembly in the United States."

Working closely with the council is the official State Sovereignty Commission, established to "do and perform any and all acts and things deemed necessary and proper to protect the sovereignty of the State of Mississippi and her sister states from encroachment thereon by the federal government or any branch, department, or agency thereof."



The commission was voted \$250,000 to start its work.

Among the acts it deems necessary is to support the Citizens' Council. By last spring it had given \$174,000 to the Citizens' Council Forum, a weekly program carried by some 400 radio and television stations.

~~Erle~~ Johnston, director of the commission, has said that the commission has sent one million letters to citizens "about the dangers of the civil rights bill." The commission has also given some \$300,000 to the Coordinating Committee for Fundamental American Freedoms, the anti-civil rights bill lobby, and pays the \$25,000 a year salary of the lobby's legal advisor, John Satterfield.

The State Sovereignty Commission has also mailed a manual to all law enforcement officers in the state, outlining laws under which civil rights workers can be arrested.

The size and strength of the Citizens' Council has eclipsed other racist groups within the state, but other groups still exist.

Last spring, the Ku Klux Klan claimed 91,003 members in the state. The Klan's greatest strength is in the southwest corner of the state where it operates openly as the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan--"Dedicated to maintain and extend the dignity, heritage and rights of the White Race of America." Here in the early months of the year eight Negroes were killed, numerous others were beaten, Negro businesses were bombed, and dozens of crosses were burned.

But cross-burnings recently became standard fare throughout the state. "A regular Friday night affair," according to the Jackson Clarion-Ledger.

Also powerful in southwest Mississippi is the Association for the Preservation of the White Race. Founded in Natchez in 1961, the association now has several chapters in southwest Mississippi counties. It holds weekly meetings which are attended by, to quote a newsman, "mighty important people." Last March the group held a fair-sized meeting in Jackson at the Hinds County Courthouse, the courthouse where Byron De La Beckwith had been tried.

Jackson is home of the Women for Constitutional Government, sort of a women's auxiliary of the Citizens' Council; Patriotic American Youth, a Citizens' Council dominated organization for high school and college students; and the United Front. The front organizes boycotts of any stores who give in to the demands of the "race-mixers"--a Mississippi term for anti-segregationists, or anyone who opposes discrimination. Early in the year the front urged citizens to write to "borderline" senators, stressing opposition to the civil rights bill--among those senators it considered on the "borderline" were both Alabama senators.

The northern part of the state is home for the Patriotic Network and the Association of Tenth Amendment Conservatives. ATAC, an organization of college students, was formed only last April.

The control of these racist organizations even extends to the courts. Mississippi of course does not recognize the U.S. Supreme Court. Last March, in Ruleville, when a voter registration worker protested his arrest as being unconstitutional, Mayor Dourrough told him, "That law has not reached here yet."

Mississippi, however, does have its own supreme court and its most famous justice is Tom Brady, a Barnett appointee.

Brady was a leading spirit and vigorous organizer for the Citizens' Council and made over 600 speeches for the group during its first years. In his book, Black Monday, he wrote: "The Negro proposes to breed up his inferior intellect and whiten his skin and 'blow out the light' in the white man's brain and muddy his skin." Brady further explained, "You can dress a chimpanzee, housebreak him, and teach him to use a knife and a fork, but it will take countless generations of evolutionary development, if ever, before you can convince him that a caterpillar or a cockroach is not a delicacy. Likewise the social, political, economic and religious preferences of the Negro remain close to the caterpillar and the cockroach."



Brady's ideal: "The loveliest and purest of God's creatures, the nearest thing to an angelic being that treads this terrestrial ball, is a well-bred, cultured Southern white woman or her blue-eyed, golden-haired little girl."

Brady's words so impressed people that Black Monday became the Citizens' Council's handbook. Brady himself became the Democratic National Committeeman from Mississippi.

But not only Mississippians appoint such judges in Mississippi. President Eisenhower appointed Judge Ben Cameron of Meridian to the Fifth Circuit Court. It was Cameron who issued four consecutive stays to block Meredith from entering the University of Mississippi. In one <sup>1</sup>opinion Cameron wrote that he didn't believe the 14th Amendment's prohibition of racial discrimination should be enforced in the South.

President Kennedy appointed Harold Cox as a Mississippi district judge. Cox, who was Sen. Eastland's college room mate, early in the year referred to a group of Negro vote applicants as "a bunch of niggers on a voter drive." He explained, "I'm never going to be in sympathy with a bunch of people who act like chimpanzees." Then added, "But I'll oppose with every ounce of my energy any discrimination."

In mid-March an attorney filed a motion to have Judge Cox disqualified from acting in civil rights cases.

In April, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy said, "I'm very proud of the judges that have been appointed. We looked into all of them for questions of integrity and whether they would uphold the law of the land."

In Mississippi, justice is one-sided, as politics are one party.

Early in the year the legislature passed an anti-boycott bill aimed at Negro campaigns against stores that discriminate. But Jackson Mayor Allen Thompson and others had proposed a boycott of "Bonanza" and the show's sponsor because the stars had cancelled a white-only Jackson appearance.

"We might bring some of our friends in court when we are trying to get rid of our enemies," Rep. Frank Shanahan of Vicksburg warned.

However, Thompson McClellan of West Point, the House Judiciary Chairman, pointed out that if any "local" people were accused under the bill they would be "tried in a Mississippi court before a Mississippi jury" and he would have no "apprehension" as to the outcome.

While on the subject of law, it should be mentioned that Mississippi has legal holidays no northern schoolboy would have even dreamed of. They include General Robert E. Lee's Birthday (January 19) and Jefferson Davis' Birthday (June 3). Also, October 26, was declared "Race and Reason Day" by Gov. Barnett back in 1961, in honor of Carleton Putnam. This day could, according to "Ole Ross", "mark the turning point in the South's struggle to preserve the integrity of the white race."

Putnam's white supremacy tract, Race and Reason, had just been published and the author was being honored at a Citizens' Council sponsored banquet, attended by the state's highest dignitaries.

Barnett urged "the people of Mississippi to observe this occasion by reading and discussing Race and Reason, calling the book to the attention of friends and relatives in the North, and by participating in appropriate public functions, thereby expressing the appreciation of the people in our state for Mr. Carleton Putnam and for his splendid book Race and Reason."

The book was soon to replace Judge Brady's Black Monday as the Citizens' Council's handbook.

Mississippi has other heroes from outside the state besides Putnam, a northerner. The first of them is, of course, Gov. Orval Faubus of Arkansas, who became a hero when he defied the federal government at Little Rock.

"If the governors of Southern states had gone to Little Rock," Barnett explained, "and congratulated Gov. Orval Faubus when he called out the National Guard to prevent school integration, federal troops would never have been sent to that city."



Barnett also has praised Leander Perez of Louisiana as, "A truly great American--a man who thinks like you and I do in Mississippi."

Then there is also Alabama Governor George Wallace, "a man of deep convictions and deciation," according to Barnett, "with the courage to back up his convictions." Last April 7, the Mississippi House of Representatives adjourned in his honor.

Mississippians also view themselves as heroes, as Barnett explained last March, "Thinking people throughout America admire Mississippians for standing upon the strong foundation of constitutional government."

But of all Mississippians, former Gov. Barnett is the greatest folk hero, though somewhat expensive as when he had \$10,000 gold-plated bathroom fixtures installed in the Governor's Mansion. In June of last year, C. F. Hornsby, president of the Alabama Citizens' Council, presented Barnett a plaque for "courage and patriotism" at the University of Mississippi. In February of this year, Charles M. Hills wrote in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, "Former Gov. Ross Barnett continues to be this state's ambassador for constitutional government and the Southern way of life."

But a new hero within the state is Byron De La Beckwith, accused assassin of Medgar Evers and a gun-collector who wrote in a letter: "For the next 15 years we here in Mississippi are going to have to do a lot of shooting to protect our wives and our children from bad Negroes and sorry white folks and federal interference." When Beckwith's second trial also ended in a mistrial, he was released on bond and headed north, home to Greenwood.

"When we arrived at Tchula," Beckwith said, "there was a sign saying 'Welcome Home Delay' and when I got to the outskirts of Greenwood, there was another one. It brought tears to my eyes."

Dozens of whites greeted him at the county courthouse and that night he was treated by officials to a steak dinner at one of Greenwood's finest restaurants. Then he moved in with his wife at the Hotel LaFlora.

An up and coming hero is Mayor Allen Thompson of Jackson. Hodding Carter has written: "Jackson is a town obsessed with a determination to maintain existing relationships between the races. Its politics and social order are monolithic. One can count on two hands those Jacksonians who are willing to speak out against any status quo.\*\*\*Almost the sole source of the city's newspaper information comes from a morning and afternoon combination owned by a family whose animation can only be described as an admixture of fundamentalism, furious racism and greed. Rare is the Jackson citizen of any prominence, or even of no consequence, who does not belong to the Citizens' Council."

Even, or naturally, the chairman of a "Keep Jackson Beautiful" campaign is a member of the board of directors of the Jackson Citizens' Council.

Thompson's police force is the object of attention, and, under a new state law, its men and equipment are available to any Mississippi city that requests them. The leading piece of equipment is a \$15,000 specially built armored car with a mounted machine gun and two sets of ten port holes--one set for shooting, the other for tossing/tear gas grenades. Other equipment includes two troop carriers with search lights, three-wire-enclosed flat-bed trailer trucks for hauling off prisoners, and a compound which can hold 10,000 prisoners. The police force consists of 435 men each equipped with a riot helmet, gas mask and shot gun. All this for a town with a population of about 150,000.

"We have a larger than usual police force," Thompson modestly explains.

Thompson even has a color slide presentation on his force which he proudly shows before civic and police groups throughout the South.

"This is the only city in the world where you can guarantee that there won't be any pickets," Thompson says, and his police force sees to that.

The police force in Indianola is also somewhat unique, but unique only for Mississippi, as the department has one Negro on its force.



"We've got that guy down there," an Indianola alderman told the editor of the Greenwood Commonwealth. "If he has to shoot a Negro, or he shoots one, you've got an unfortunate shooting, but you don't have a racial incident."

"That is the basis on which Indianola hired its Negro officer," the editor commented. "He has since proved valuable in many more ways."

When the editor suggested that Greenwood police hire a Negro, the sheriff refused, seeing it as the first step to Negroes getting in everywhere.

But thanks to a new law, communities won't have to depend solely on their own police to handle "uppity Negroes" and "outside agitators". The state police have been given additional powers so that the governor, at his own discretion, can send them anyplace he wishes to "handle disturbances". Senator McDonnell charged that the law created "a traveling Gestapo, smacking of Nazi Germany and Russia."

Sen. George Yarbrough said, "I think senators do a disservice to the state when they utter things up here about Hitler and other things that should be left unsaid."

Governor Johnson pointed out, "Actually we are seeking to legalize what we have been doing in the past. You sheriffs have always been able to call on the Highway Patrol. This plan will give us swift action."

The law also increased the number of police by 70 percent.

"If we don't pass this bill, it will be fatal to our way of life," admitted Rep. Thompson McClellan.

Rep. Ralph Herrin, however, had a minor criticism. He felt it "should provide 1,000 police dogs to go with the patrolmen."

This then is Mississippi, a unique state, determined to stand apart from the progress of humanity. If the reader takes a trip through the state, he too can discover--to quote from an official state travel ad--"The magic of Mississippi becomes more apparent with every mile you travel through the state."