

MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

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Ole Miss Will Integrate In July

COMMENTS

BY CHARLES L. BUTTS

As the new editor of this paper I will be concerned with encouraging a more democratic climate in the state of Mississippi.

Until the political situation is improved, conditions in the state will continue to be poor for everyone, regardless of race.

Good government will mean better schools, improved farm labor legislation, and a fair distribution of Federal funds for farm and small business loans. The present Mississippi government is advantageous to the very few and detrimental to the many. The campaigns that are now being conducted are most important in getting people involved in politics, getting them to register, vote and think.

Only in this way will the archaic political, economic and social institutions be done away with and replaced by those in keeping with the U. S. Constitution.

Word comes from Oxford, Mississippi, home of the University, some students are sympathetic with the Meredith decision and that some even petitioned for it.

These students did want, however, to make clear that they were doing this because they wanted such restrictions stopped and not because they liked Meredith himself.

This has been the same type of approach that Meredith has used himself.

From my own experience, though, it will not take an open person very long to discover that Meredith has a real personality, and that he is a real person, with the potential of becoming a real friend.

Medgar Evers, Jackson field secretary for the NAACP, was giving me some information for an article the other day and we happened to start discussing the difference between desegregation and integration.

He explained that when the NAACP filed suit against a public park because it was segregated, they were trying to desegregate it. After they win the suit they integrate it, using nonviolent, direct action techniques. There is a difference in the two.

A group of students were around the Nonviolent office when Jess Brown, Vicksburg attorney working with Mrs. Motley and Jack Greenburg on the Meredith case, came into the office. He had been in court all day and had not heard the news that the decision had been handed down granting Meredith admission to Ole Miss.

When I kidded him about winning another case he didn't believe me.

All the other students joined in and said that it was on the



MR. AND MRS. JAMES H. MEREDITH

Higgs And Group Arrested, Questioned, Threatened; Held Incommunicado 20 Hours

William L. Higgs, Jackson attorney of politics and federal law, was arrested in Clarksdale, Mississippi after he had spoken at a Negro political rally there. He was traveling in a car that also contained college students from Coe College in Iowa and Oberlin College in Ohio. The group had traveled around the state prior to coming to Clarksdale in the evening.

The students were Vicki Burroughs, Jean Johnson, and Phil Enslly of Coe, and Dave Campbell of Oberlin. The fact that Miss Johnson was Negro and traveling in a car with other white students was apparently the reason for the arrests.

Three Police Cars In On Arrest

Three police cars awaited the group as they approached the border of Coahoma County. All three cars had their red flashers on and sirens blowing as they surrounded the car.

After being taken back to Clarksdale and booked, they were interrogated as to why they were in Mississippi and what they were doing in Clarksdale.

The group was repeatedly denied the opportunity to call relatives. When they asked for what charge they were arrested, the only answer they could get was that it is illegal to ride in

a car interracialy. Higgs, while remaining calm and polite, forcefully assured the sheriff that his statement was not true. The officers spent a great deal of time with Higgs because of his involvement in the political campaigns of the two Negro candidates for Congress and because he himself has run against some of the staunch segregationists. Higgs afterward related that he stayed quite calm in his appearance but that he was quite angered that officers of his state would treat people in the manner that they did.

Higgs Life Threatened

While Higgs was being interrogated, one of the officers pointed out to him that he could put him in the same cell with a desperate criminal and tell him to finish him while he turned his back. When he was released, the Jackson lawyer described his experience as one that might have happened in Nazi Germany.

In the process of questioning the others, the police also learned the group had earlier been successful in integrating a public beach that was part of a Federal Reserve. All of the

(continued on page three)

NAACP Attorneys Gain 2-1 Decision Meredith To Begin With Summer Session

As a result of a 2-1 decision of the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, James H. Meredith will be the first Negro student to attend a white public institution of higher learning in Mississippi.

This decision, the result of 17 months of litigation by a team of NAACP lawyers, was handed down on Meredith's 29th birthday. When asked what he thought of the birthday present, he indicated that he was pleased but cautioned, "Now comes the real test."

Meredith's attorneys were Mrs. Constance Motley, and Jack Greenburg from the New York office, and noted Mississippi attorney Mr. R. Jess Brown of Vicksburg.

When the defense attempted to get an injunction to permit Meredith to enter in January, Judges Wisdom, Tuttle and Rives were on the bench. The court refused the plea with Chief Justice Tuttle dissenting.

Judges Amused

During that hearing, the judges had several occasions at which they had to break out in uncontrolled chuckles at the state attorney's insistence that there is no segregation statutes in Mississippi. The judges informed him that if that were the case, they would have to take judicial notice that segregation was, nevertheless, strictly practiced in Mississippi.

On another occasion, after Mrs.

Motley had pointed out Meredith's difficulty in getting the required five recommendations from Ole Miss alumni, the state's attorney again amused the judges by claiming that if he believed his client to be correct, he would check through all of the files to make sure that there were no Negro alumni.

When the actual order was issued, Wisdom was again on the bench and wrote the majority opinion which was concurred in by Judge Brown. U. S. District Judge DeVane dissented.

Enter In July

Meredith hopes to register at Ole Miss for the coming summer session which begins July 13.

He may run into more difficulty despite the favorable decision, as Mississippi officials plan to bring charges against him with the intention of following through on a charge that he falsified a voter registration oath.

The District judges had ruled the charge "frivolous," and delayed state prosecution until the order was issued. It is regarded as doubtful that any judges will war the charge.

Throughout the campaign to gain admission to Ole Miss, Meredith has emphasized the fact that he wants to go to the state university "for a better education" and not merely as a "protest."

No Negro college in Mississippi offers courses equal to those at the better white universities. In seeking a better school for himself, Meredith foresees the day when the same opportunity may be open to others.

NAACP Cooperates In Campaign Doubling Registered Negroes

Voter registration is the most important phase of the Jackson NAACP at the present time. An all out effort is being made to double the number of Negroes on the registration books. The NAACP is working cooperatively with the Congress of Racial Equality, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The larger towns in Mississippi are the areas being stressed in the drive for more voters. Medgar Evers, field secretary for the Jackson branch, says, "We are trying to increase the number voting particularly aiming at the 1964 elections." He went on to

(Continued on Page Four)

Miss. Free Press Expands Drive For New Subscribers

The Mississippi Free Press is getting underway a massive circulation campaign designed to get this independent weekly newspaper in the Deep South into homes of freedom-loving people all over the nation.

For the small sum of only \$4.00, paid in advance, the Mississippi Free Press will be mailed every Thursday directly to the home of the individual subscriber, wherever he or she may live.

The Free Press will be bringing the news direct from Mississippi. The newspaper is a four page tabloid that covers the state, has articles about pending legislation and litigation pertinent to the changing South, and reviews of relevant books.

Full and accurate news coverage is important to Mississippi but because of the powerful position Southern politicians hold in the National Congress, current news of developments in Mississippi is important to the nation as well.

The reader is encouraged to fill out the subscription application for himself or a friend. (p.2)

The NAACP: Road To A New Equality

On July 2, more than 1500 delegates will convene in Atlanta for the 53rd Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The delegates will come to talk over each others progress and plan for further advancement.

It was this very same city that a woman newspaper reporter, Mary Ovington, visited 56 years ago. Miss Ovington had become concerned with the problems of racial tension existing in the North but had seen the segregation of the Deep South only once before. She arrived immediately after the Atlanta race riots of 1906 and saw ruined homes and businesses. She learned that Negro men who tried to prevent a white man from molesting a Negro woman might be lynched. Nothing further would be done about it.

In 1908, Miss Ovington read a blood curdling record of the Springfield, Ill. race riots where again lynchers were not held to account for their actions. Struck by the importance of stopping such incidents and bringing about a change in the attitudes that caused them, she wrote a letter to William Walling who had reported the Springfield riots. In the letter she suggested that steps be taken to discover how race relations could be improved on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line.

As a result of this letter, Walling, a Southern journalist, Miss Ovington, and a third man, Henry Moskowitz, met in New York. These three people drew up a document condemning the lack of progress in the Negro's rights and called for action to improve the situation.

The document released on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Lincoln, was signed by sixty well-known persons. These people first called themselves the National Negro Committee, but at the second conference they changed it to the name known to nearly every American — the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

And so, 56 years later, the NAACP still continues its work. What began with a concerned woman, a trip to Atlanta, a letter and a meeting of three people, has become a dynamic organization consisting of 400,000 members from 1500 chapters all across the country.

As delegates of the 1962 convention travel to Atlanta we pay tribute to their many accomplishments. With all that the NAACP has done however, it is no tribute to America that there need be a convention there this week.

Neither Atlanta nor Springfield, neither North nor South, are what they ought to be — what they must be — if the word "democracy" is to have any real meaning.

Perhaps the most significant, or at least most widely known accomplishment of the NAACP was the 1954 Supreme Court School desegregation decision. Mistakenly, credit is often given to the Eisenhower administration for bringing about the historic decision.

The legal staff of the NAACP had diligently struggled against the "separate but equal" clause until it was established as inherently unequal.

The 1954 decision alone does not in any way sum up the significance of the NAACP. For several years following that decision civil rights action actually suffered a decline. This probably stemmed from a feeling of satisfaction with the High Court's decision. After several years had produced only token integration, the NAACP again showed its strength in the courts.

Just last week the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a ruling that will bring about the integration of hard-core segregationist Mississippi. The thousands of people participating in the local chapters of the NAACP may be the least known but are certainly the most important in the broad progress toward equality.

In the face of intimidation and reprisals, Southern Chapter members provide the spark that can turn into a fire of hope and make democracy a reality in Dixie.

(Fight for Freedom by Langston Hughes was used as a reference for the historical material.)

— CLB

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BOOK REVIEW

Fight For Freedom: The Story Of The NAACP

"FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, THE STORY OF THE NAACP" by Langston Hughes, Berkley Publishing Corp., 224pp. \$5.00.

To promote equality of rights and eradicate caste or race prejudice among the citizens of the United States; to advance the interest of colored citizens; to secure for them impartial suffrage; and to increase their opportunities for securing justice in the courts, education for their children, employment according to their ability, and complete equality before the law.

These purposes of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People are of immediate concern to an increasing number of Americans. Langston Hughes in his recent book, "Fight For Freedom: The Story of the NAACP", gives a vivid and interesting account of the birth of this organization on February 12, 1909, the centennial of Lincoln's birth, and its subsequent growth to maturity in the following fifty-one years.

The author deals largely with three principal topics: the history of the organization, the activities of some of its most important members, and areas in which the NAACP has been most effective in the past and hopefully in the future.

The book offers many valuable insights into the origin, growth and structure of the organization and most important into the philosophy upon which it was based. In addition the author devotes a good deal of his time to emphasizing the importance of the two World Wars in helping the Negro take his rightful place as a full and equal citizen of the United States.

There are extremely vivid accounts of the roles played in this moving drama by men like Dr. Joel E. Spingarn, the first chairman of the Board of Directors of the NAACP; Dr. W. E. DuBois, the first editor of "The Crisis"; Walter White, James Weldon Johnson, Thurgood Marshall, Roy Wilkins, and our own Medgar Evers from Jackson, Mississippi.

Mr. Hughes points out very clearly how important are both the "power of organization and the volume of organized protest."

Two areas struck this reviewer as being most crucial to achieving the goals of the NAACP, as stated at the beginning of this article.

The first is that of the law — forceful and aggressive action in the court system. Such activities by the NAACP are carefully traced by the author, with an especially interesting account of the Supreme Court decision of 1954 ordering the public schools to be desegregated.

The second area, which could have been considered in greater depth, concerns the problem of educating the public so that the people of the United States will be able to accept these changes more readily, changes still so hard come by after long struggles in the courts. The author implies some of this in his description of the scene at Little Rock after the Supreme Court decision. However, the importance of carrying on an active program of education along with the legal struggle cannot be emphasized too greatly.

"Fight For Freedom, The Story of the NAACP" is both interesting and educational. We highly recommend it to all who agree with James Russell Lowell in

Citizenship And Equal Protection Of The Law

According to Locke, "if government rests upon consent, what about those who dissent? But they have agreed to accept the majority decision. But what if, at least on certain issues, they deny that they have agreed?"

J. S. Mill points out "the people" who exercise the power, are not the same people with those whom it is exercised; the majority or those who succeed in making themselves accepted as the majority. The people consequently, may desire to oppress a part of their number; and precautions are as much needed against this, as against any other abuse of power."

It is difficult to conceive, the majority wanting the minority to give up his God given rights — and among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; to equate and perpetuate an obsolescent institution-slavery.

Are we citizens of the United States? All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction there of are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.

It is inconceivable of white Mississippians asking the Negro to accept second-class citizenship to waive his constitutional rights; to give up his God-given rights, so that (he) the white man can boast of racial superiority.

How asinine and fickle can one be?

Has not the Negro given up enough already?

I can readily answer this question in the affirmative. The price for freedom has been purchased by the Negro's blood from Bunker Hill to the Korean Conflict. His muscles, coupled with blood, sweat and tears have hewed out of the wilderness great cities, farms, factories, and a great American nation.

It was Kant who said, "No one has a right to compel me to be happy in the peculiar way in which he may think of the well-being of other men."

Therefore, I abhor with all my heart and power any pseudo freedom that the State of Mississippi is busy trying by persuasion, coercion, cooperation and legislation to get the Negro to accept which is repugnant to the Constitution of the United States.

We shall not be moved by these oppressors of injustice disguising as a government of the people by the people and for the people.

Woman Editor Given High Award In Journalism

Mrs. Hazel Brannon Smith, publisher and editor of The Lexington (Miss.) Advertiser was presented the Headliner Award at the convention of Theta Sigma Phi, the National Fraternity for Women in Journalism, in San Antonio, last week.

News of this top award will be of special interest to readers inasmuch as Mrs. Smith prints the Mississippi Free Press in the commercial printing department of her newspaper at Lexington.

White Citizens' Council leaders in Lexington established an opposing weekly in Lexington (Jan. 1959) against Mrs. Smith because of her editorial policies. Their 3-year attempted advertising and circulation boycott was stepped up in December when she started printing the Free Press.

The award was given Mrs. Smith "for distinguished service in the field of journalism." This is the highest award given by the fraternity. Only three women in the U. S. receive it each year.

The two other women who were honored with Mrs. Smith were Mrs. Elizabeth Carpenter and Miss Ann Corrick, both of Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Carpenter is executive assistant to the Vice-President of the United States, the Hon. Lyndon B. Johnson. She holds the highest position of any woman in the executive branch of

his poem, "The Present Crisis."
"... to side with Truth is noble when we share her wretched crust,
Ere her cause bring fame and profit, and it is prosperous to be just;
Then it is the brave man chooses while the coward stands aside,
Doubting in his abject spirit, till his Lord is crucified..."

Letters To The Editor

(Letters to the editor are encouraged and will be printed when they seem of sufficient interest regardless of point of view. Letters printed do not necessarily reflect the views of the paper. Signed letters are much more likely to be printed, although a signed letter may direct that the name be withheld.)
TO THE EDITOR:

This is a suggestion. The evening edition of the Mississippi news, sports and weather entitled "Byline" on Channel 12 features Ken Parks and others.

I won't mention any of the other names on the show because they don't seem to have any difficulty pronouncing their words.

Ken Parks doesn't seem to have any trouble pronouncing any words except the word "Negro."

I would suggest that you suggest to the proper people that Ken Parks use the term "Colored People" since he seems to have so much trouble pronouncing the word, "Negro."

A FRIEND

the government. Miss Corrick is assistant chief of the news bureau of the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company of Washington, D. C. She is the immediate past president of the Radio-Television Correspondents of America and is the only woman ever elected to head that organization.

Mrs. Smith is one of the most outstanding editors in Mississippi. She was introduced as the "best known editor in the South." Her papers have long been known as advocates of equal justice under the law for all people.

In 1957, by unanimous action, the Mississippi Press Association Convention presented her a special Citation. The inscription on the plaque commends her "for her epochal fight in the interest of freedom of the press."

"The inscription ends, "Her courageous fight was a distinguished service to freedom of the American Press."

4 End 17 Days In Jail

Endure Isolation And Poor Food; Denied Soap And Toilet Paper . . .

Four members of the Jackson Nonviolent Movement were released on \$500 bonds after spending 17 agonizing days in the Jackson and Hinds County Jail. The members of the Nonviolent group affiliated with both CORE and SNCC, were arrested after they had registered their protest to intimidations that had recently occurred in the city of Jackson.

The students, Robert Talbert, W. T. Allen, Charles McLaurin and Peter Stoner, had carried signs that read, "End Segregation on City Buses," "Stop Police Brutality," "Free Luvagh and Jesse from Jail," and "Don't Let Mississippi Take Over Campbell College," when they were arrested. The picket that referred to "Jesse" and "Luvagh" was asking for the release of these two students who were serving jail terms for having sat on the white side of the Hinds County Court room while attending the trial of Diane Nash Bevel. The picket hoped to make public the injustice and the severity of the penalty for such

an action.

The picket referring to Campbell College was protesting the alleged attempt by the state of Mississippi to take over part or all of the land of Campbell, a private Negro College in Jackson, where many students have been active in various student protests. The picket, which took place on June 2, was held on the steps of the Jackson Post Office because the picketers believed that the local police did not have jurisdiction over demonstrations on Federal property.

Although the Justice Department apparently concurred with the students prior to the vigil, when contacted after the arrest they did not intervene. The four were sentenced to four months in jail and \$200 fines each. They served 17 days before being able to raise the necessary \$500 bond. They were released June 18th. An appeal is being made.

After his release, Bob Talbert told about the group being put into cells separate from the rest of the prisoners and that even the guards and trustees were not allowed to talk to them.

Talbert also said, "We were not allowed to have any soap and not even our repeated request for toilet paper was granted."

Stoner, who appeared to have physically suffered from the ordeal, said, "Conditions were almost more than we could stand." He also related his shock at finding an 11 year old boy subjected to the same conditions.

All four students are now working full time for the voter registration campaign in Jackson while they await appeal.

Clarksdale Boycott Continues In Effect

The trade boycott of Downtown Merchants in Clarksdale continues with the vast majority of Negro citizens participating. Several thousand have signed pledges that they will not trade in downtown Clarksdale until they do receive the courtesy and consideration they feel they are entitled to.

The Clarksdale boycott was written up in Jet magazine on May 31.

Recently representatives of Dunn and Bradstreet were in Clarksdale for a period of time reportedly to try to help the white community figure out some way to offset or remedy the boycott.

11-Year-Old Kept 3 Weeks Under Cruel Prison

By PETER STONER

During the week we were in the Hinds County jail there was an 11 year-old Negro boy being kept in the adjoining cell. He told us that his name was Junior, that he and his brother had been put in prison for taking a bicycle. (The trustees verified that he had been kept there for about a month.) He stated that his parents, whom he thought were living in Chicago, didn't want him and had at one time attempted to kill him by putting him on the railroad tracks; he was now living with his grandmother.

Considering the conditions that exist in Mississippi jails — not fit for even hardened criminals — it is an atrocity to have kept a young boy in isolation there. The dungeon-like cells were hot and damp. Cockroaches ran over the dirty floor and walls and crawled out of cracks around the toilet. Flies and mosquitoes bit continuously. Food and washing facilities were grossly inadequate. Even simple requests for a Bible or reading matter were refused. The boy's grandmother wasn't allowed to visit him.

After we were released, we went and talked to the boy's grandmother. Although she is quite concerned about the children, there is not much she can do for them with her limited education and abilities. She lives in a poor section of town and is not well off.

We went to the city jail and talked to Mr. Osbourne, the city youth counselor. He informed us that on April 9th Junior and his 14-year-old brother had been arrested for riding on a stolen motorscooter. They were put on probation at that time. On May 2nd the two brothers were again arrested for having taken a lawnmower. The juvenile court sentenced them to be sent to the reformatory, but the court again decided to be lenient, and they were released to the grandmother's custody. On May 25th the two youths were stopped while riding stolen bicycles. As it was the third offense, they were kept in the local jails until space was found at Oakley Reformatory. Osbourne himself recognized the need for a detention home and better care for juveniles.

Without doubt these boys' parents have been negligent in meeting the needs of the boys. At the same time you and I, as citizens of Jackson, are not free from fault. We have allowed these children to roam the streets and have not offered them community centers or any guides for positive behavior. What is more logical than for a 14-year-old boy from a broken home to take the bicycle he can't afford? Or for his brother to go along with him? Can we now just sit back and let the prison system convert our youth into criminals?

Higgs And Group—

(Continued from Page One)

group had appeared on the beach in swim suits and enjoyed a couple of hours in the water and on the sand. They were surrounded by wondering looks but had no incident. Several of the children played in the water near Jean without allowing their play to be interrupted by such adult practices as prejudice and looks of amazement.

Integrate Ole Miss

The police also discovered the group had toured the Ole Miss campus. During their visit to the University library, Vicki and Jean used the ladies room with no incident. Again they received many amazed glances, but no one ventured to be discourteous to them until they had the reception by the Clarksdale police.

Released Without Charge

After 20 hours, during which they had had no chance to notify relatives, the group was released without being charged. They returned to Jackson without further incident.

Higgs Returns

Higgs was scheduled to return to Clarksdale for a second in a series of meetings and did return despite the parting warning by the sheriff to never set foot in Coahoma County again. At his meeting the political lawyer was met by a large and receptive crowd. He addressed them about the importance of registering and voting to gain the rights as guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution.

Audience Would Have Stood Behind Him And Gone To Jail

Dr. Aaron Henry, Negro leader from Clarksdale, apologized to Higgs for the way the police in his county had treated him.

He said, that if there was any problem this time there were people who were prepared to go to jail with him. When Henry said that, the entire audience spontaneously stood up in support. Higgs was very moved by the show of support.

During this trip, Higgs never had to even see a policeman. There was none in sight. In fact, a Saturday Evening Post photographer who was covering the meeting, went out specifically looking for police to photograph. He saw only one cruiser and when he flashed his camera at them they turned their car around and fled in the other direction.

Police Fired

Shortly after the arrest incident, the chief of police was fired by the Clarksdale council. There were no reasons given for the action but it seemed to clearly tie in with the arrests.

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June 5th Was Historic Day For Negroes; Two Candidates Try For U. S. Congress

Vote Showed Negro "Block" Vote Just Does Not Exist

An historic day for the Negro citizens of Mississippi was marked Tuesday, June 5, when Negro candidates in the Second and Third Congressional Districts appeared on the ballot in the Democratic Primary election.

In the Second District, Rev. Merrill Winston Lindsey received 1,318 votes, according to the official figures released by the Mississippi State Executive Committee at a meeting Tuesday of last week in Jackson.

Rev. Robert L. T. Smith of Jackson received 2,853 votes for

Congress from the Third District of Mississippi.

An examination of the vote in the various precincts and counties will show that Negro candidates received some votes in many precincts where there were no registered Negro voters — and it will also show that Negro candidates received fewer votes by far than the total number of qualified, registered Negro voters.

As one observer said: "This means only one thing — that the Negro voters did not come out and vote even where they are qualified, or if they did vote they did not vote solidly for Negro candidates."

"This fact should certainly serve to lessen the fears held by some white people on the Negro vote, some of them who believe that Negroes do vote a solid block vote when they are allowed to vote," the spokesman continued.

Aaron E. Henry, campaign manager for Rev. Lindsey issued the following statement about the outcome of the election:

"It is encouraging to note that in almost all communities, some in which there were no Negro voters, Lindsey received some votes, even in Tallahatchie County where no Negroes have voted since reconstruction. The vote also showed the Negro vote cannot be considered by any serious-minded person as a block for obviously some Negroes voted for Smith and Whitten."

"We do regret that we were only able to have poll watchers at the polls (some 37) in Lindsey's interest. None of our requests for managers or clerks was honored. This is where it counts. While we feel most of the poll officials were honest, with only Whitten and Smith representatives being able to conduct the voting and count the votes (during the vote counting we had to sit in the balcony at the auditorium) there was an opportunity for dishonesty."

Walter Williams Testified June 15 To Congressional Comm.

Speaking on behalf of the Americans for Democratic Action, Walter Williams told a Congressional Committee that because of strict segregation in Mississippi, it was not until he went North that he "began to understand some of the problems that confront Southern white students."

Williams, in his June 15 testimony, prepared for the House Subcommittee on Integration on Federally Assisted Public Education, said that passage of desegregation legislation would provide among other benefits "the building of a two-way bridge, so that students of all races could understand each other's problems."

Segregation in education "has many subtle destructive effects upon both the Southern Negro and white," Williams told the Committee. "If America is to maintain her position of leadership in today's world, all Americans must have equal opportunity to education, free from segregation and discrimination."

Williams, who is employed by the National Student Association as administrator of the Southern Student Freedom Fund, was student body president at Jackson State College, Jackson, Mississippi. He was suspended from the college because he led the first Mississippi march protesting segregation. During this march, he and other students were attacked by police dogs, tear gas and billy sticks.

In urging passage of legislation which would require every school board maintaining segregated districts to submit a plan for desegregation within six months of enactment of the bill, he pointed out that only 7.6% of eligible Negroes attend bi-racial schools in the Southern and border states, eight years after the U. S. Supreme Court's ruling on school desegregation. In Alabama, South Carolina and Mississippi, schools are completely segregated, the National Student Association aide told the Congressmen. "I can assure you there is no such thing as 'separate-but-equal' in the Mississippi elementary and high schools," he said. "Separate, yes, but equal, no."

He described a Negro state college from his own experience as a student. "This institution of higher learning, if it can justifiably be called that, is overcrowded, under-staffed, and has

NAACP Cooperates—

(Continued from Page One)

say that it is hoped to have 60,000 Negro voters by 1964.

Hinds County, which contains the city of Jackson has between 5,000 and 6,000 registered. It is estimated that of that number about 4,000 have paid their poll taxes. In Mississippi it is necessary to pay a poll tax of \$2.00 between December 15 and February 1 for two consecutive years in order to vote in the primary election (which is the most important in the one party South.) For the general election it is necessary to pay the poll tax once during the designated 48-day period and possible to pay the other year's delinquent tax. The NAACP will continue to file complaints with the Justice Department wherever voting rights are infringed. To date, the Justice Department has been most responsive to all such claims. The NAACP has won its lawsuit to desegregate the public parks, but Federal District Judge Mize ruled that it was open only to those Negroes who filed suit, meaning that the park is open to three Negroes. Unsatisfied with the ruling; the NAACP is appealing the decision. The Association also plans to begin litigation to integration the public schools on the secondary level.

inadequate educational facilities."

He also discussed the harmful effects of the fact that in Mississippi there are no graduate or professional schools that will accept Negroes for higher training after they have finished college. Mississippi thus loses many valuable citizens because "The Negro student, if he is to advance himself intellectually, has to attend a college outside the state," and "in most cases he has no desire to return and offer his services."

He summarized his testimony by saying that "segregation in education has many subtle destructive effects upon both the Southern Negro and white. It breeds feelings of inferiority and superiority, respectively. It discourages the desire for intellectual attainment, and it hampers the progress not only of the South, but of the Nation."

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