

MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

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Laborers Strike At 14 Sites In Jackson

COMMENTS

By Charles L. Butts

I was talking to a grocer the other day about the fact that he is stocking products in his store that are produced by non-union people while the union men who were attempting to get higher wages, were picketing the plant. He told me that he only wanted to be fair, to remain sociable. The question is, it seems to me, who do you want to be sociable with? Perhaps he would reply, that he wanted to be sociable with everyone. That certainly is nice. But by just not paying attention to what was going on, and allowing things to be just as they were before may be sociable to the people who are against the strike, but certainly is not to those who are on the picket line.

Unless shop owners refuse to buy the product just as the individual customer, the strikers will have a very difficult time being effective, especially here in the South. In this case, then the store operator who leaves things as they were is being "sociable" to those trying to beat the strike and not to the people who the strike will help.

When I asked this particular man if he had read the coverage of the situation in the FREE PRESS, which he had a copy of, he said that he did not have time. No time to find how he was being sociable to the very people who are never sociable to him, and most courteous to those people who are in very similar positions to himself.

I had a friend from Columbia, South America visiting me for about a week recently. He was very much liked by my friends — and he became quite fond of them as well. When the time came to say good-bye everyone heartily shook hands with him and cheerfully wished him well on his trip here in the United States. After we had left the others, and I was taking him to the bus, he told me in Spanish how different the "good-byes" were in the U. S. compared to those in Columbia. He said in his country when someone went away it was very sad and no one would have any real feeling in his words for saying good-bye. When I asked him if he liked the American way of parting, he said, "Ah, much, much." (Very much.)

Clarksdale Funds Unfairly Handled

The FREE PRESS has recently heard from its Clarksdale correspondent that local tax funds for education in the Delta city are being spent in a discriminatory manner. While \$146.06 is being spent for the education of each white child, only \$25.07 is being spent for the education of each Negro child.

This difference in the distribution of tax monies is not limited to Clarksdale, however. Coahoma County, in which the city is located, is typical of many of the rural counties. While \$139.33 is spent on the education of each white child, only \$12.74 is being spent for the education of each Negro child. (Continued on Page Four)

13 In Greenwood Fill Out Forms New Law In Effect

Last week in the FREE PRESS there was an article about the success some of the people working in Greenwood Mississippi had in distributing leaflets that encouraged people to register and vote. As a result of the leafletting without incident, two people went down to the registrar's office to try and register. They were denied. Later, thirteen more went down and were allowed to fill out forms.

According to a new law recently passed by the Mississippi Legislature, before anyone can be registered their (Continued On Page Four)

Union Rejects Five Cent Raise; Wants Raise Equal To Other Men

A new strike has begun in Jackson. This strike involves the Laborer's Union Local 145 and the Construction Contractor's Association. The strike began on August 1 at six of the major building projects here and has spread to fourteen building sites. All other workmen on these jobs have gotten thirty-cent raises, say the laborers. The laborers reportedly only were offered a five-cent raise in pay.

Effect Of Harts Strike Spreads

The Harts strike continues in Jackson without incident. According to bread salesmen on the companies competing with Harts, their sales are continuing to rise. This is because more and more people are showing their support of the workers right to bargain with their employers. The people are showing this support by refusing to buy Harts products.

The FREE PRESS interviewed Claude Blakely, the business representative of the Memphis American Baker's and Confectioner's Union Local 149. He reported that over 70 stores have stopped letting the Harts salesmen bring their bread onto their shelves. "For sometime," Blakely said, "a large store in St Louis has not allowed Harts into the store because of the strike." This store handles several thousands of loaves each day. Just recently he said that a large buyer in Birmingham stopped getting Harts bread. He hoped to have some of the really large stores in Memphis to stop purchasing Harts sometime this week.

The Hartzog family, which owns all of the four plants in Sikeston, Missouri; Memphis, Greenville and Jackson, Mississippi, is determined not to give in and allow the workers to get a pay raise. This determination has cost them a

the exception of one or two of the twenty-two counties. The state's discriminatory registration, voting and election laws are almost totally effective against possible Negro voting.

The petitions aim at a three pointed attack against Whitten. First, they will attempt to have Whitten unseated and Lindsey put in his place. Second, they will ask to have representation reduced from 5 to 3, in proportion to the number of Negro citizens now being denied the vote in the state. The third request would be for a new election, with qualified (Continued on Page Three)

The contractors first offered the nickel increase to begin on January 1, 1963. When the union leaders balked, the employers suggested starting the nickel raise beginning on September 1 of this year. The union was still unsatisfied. Apparently the Contractor's Association then offered the workers the five cents effective August 1. Again the union said no. They claimed the right to get the 30 cent raise that the other workers had received.

The union men did not demand the same as the more skilled workers, but did insist that they get the same amount of increase that is in line with the rising costs of living. All other workers on the building sites have honored the strike and have refused to work until the settlement is made.

The union has a special representative helping on the negotiations. Because of the support of all the other workmen on the job, they expect the strike to be effective. Work has completely stopped on the construction of the research wing at the University Medical Hospital. The Hedgerman Building on Pearl Street in downtown Jackson also has its construction halted. The total of all the building that has been effected by the strike totals several millions of dollars.

Because most of the contractors have deadlines to meet, there will be a great deal of pressure for the contractors to meet the laborers requests. Last Wednesday both the Contractors and the Union men met for over three hours with a Federal mediator. No settlement was reached. More meetings are scheduled for later in the week.

great deal of business, much of which they will probably not ever be able to regain.

The problem of disposing of the unsold bread became something of a problem. In Sikeston, where they apparently misguessed the effect the strike had taken. They produced so much bread that when the people refused to buy it, the company men had no way of getting rid of it. According to some of the union men in Sikeston, they took out and put it on a farmer's field for fertilizer.

Petition Seeks 60,000 Signatures; More Than 20,000 Collected Already

Petitions are now being prepared contesting the results of the Democratic Primary for the Second Congressional District of Mississippi. The results of the Primary, held June 5, saw Jamie Whitten gain some 34,000 votes to defeat incumbent Frank Smith with 21,000 votes and Merrill Lindsey with some 1300 ballots cast in his favor. The petitions which will bear it is forecast, the signatures of some 60,000 second Congressional District Negroes of

voting age, claim that these citizens would have voted for Lindsey had not their right to vote been denied and abridged.

The 60,000 signatures will be in excess of the total number of votes cast for all three candidates in the primary. At the present time, some 20,000 signatures have been secured. Dr. Aaron Henry, of Clarksdale, who served as Lindsey's campaign manager, is directing the drive for signatures. It is hoped that the petitions will be completed by November, at which time formal complaint will be filed.

The primary, itself, was witness to several political maneuvers. Firstly, because Mississippi lost a Congressional seat as a result of the 1960 census, the State Legislature reformed the Second District, merging Whitten's and Smith's Districts, which had formerly been separate, into a new Second District. In this way Smith, a pro-Kennedy Congressman, and the incumbent in his District, was forced to run against Whitten in the Primary. Secondly, immediately prior to the election, the Mississippi Legislature repealed the law giving the candidates the right to appoint a fraction of the election officials. This was done after Reverend Lindsey had served notice of his intention to exercise this right. And, in Coahoma County, Negro representatives of Lindsey were barred from witnessing the counting of ballots, contrary to the state election law.

Fear and intimidation of the Negroes prevails generally throughout the District, with

Sheriff Threatens Student Worker In Holly Springs

Holly Springs, Miss. — A student working on voter registration was told not to return to the registrar's office by the deputy sheriff of this northern Mississippi city. The student, Frank Smith, is working on registering voters at the polls, and has taken several Negroes to the Clerk's Office to register.

Deputy Sheriff Ben Rose reportedly told Smith, "Nigger, you ask too many questions. We don't like people asking questions around here." He then warned Smith not to return to the registrar's office.

The Atlanta, Georgia office of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee has asked Federal authorities to investigate the threat. They offer it as "another example of police intimidation of voter registration workers."

Editorials

The Ultimate Day

Editorials are usually forthright, often fatherly, declarations of opinions. Invariably they exhort, prod, urge or reprimand. Occasionally they besmear; always they lecture. By their very nature they are "thinking" rather than "feeling;" of the intellect, rather than the soul.

Earthbound, and therefore inflexibly mortal, they soar only as high as the nearest cliché on spring tulips or fall leaves, and then disintegrate like yesterday's comics in the garbage pail. A certain myopic vision seems to afflict their writers; a myopia of cause and effect, of just-such-utter social involvement, of even right and wrong. All of which is not to say that their bespectacled vision is distorted; it is merely near-sighted.

Thus, there is more to the closing of Cicero's restaurant at the Jackson airport than a possible triumph for desegregation. And the now recessed Green County teacher rehiring hearing involves more than Negro voting rights. For in the civil rights issue, as in any social issue, it is far too easy to dehumanize people, to divide them into "good" and "bad," and to see no farther. The mustachioed leering villain of the old melodrama has been replaced by — depending upon which camp you occupy — the Northern agitator, the white "traditional" Mississippian, the upstart Negro, or the segregationist judge. And in each case, a totally damning vision of the antagonist is as narrow as the vision which originally conjured up the villain.

Man is mortal enough without inescapably binding him to the social issues of the day, a day which he boastfully claims as "his" only because in his narrowness he will know no other. And to measure him, to see him, to believe, to understand him, only in terms of his reactions to certain man-made problems (which by their very origins must share the mortality of their creators), is to rob him of even that very last "touch of the poet," to invest him with an irretrievable burden of mortality.

This does not mean that "The Causes" (or causes in general), are frivolous or misguided. It does mean that they are often near-sighted. Too often, the cause itself becomes the horizon, while men, depending on their social alignment, become either obstacles or aids in the sacred journey towards freedom. However, man cannot be saved through the sacrifice of men.

The embedded hatred, on both sides, which is present in Jackson and the South exists largely because of this narrowness of vision. One side is "good," the other is "bad" — totally. But the civil rights struggle is not simply a matter of black and white. No one can be wholly good or bad according to his response to a single question. And regardless of whether or not Negroes are admitted or seated, a burning, blanket hatred can only make farther the coming of the ultimate "day", a day long after the coming of integration.

—R. Hollander

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Editor Charles L. Butts

Vote 25,000 Short Says Memphis Atty.

3 Non-Whites On State Committee

In an interview with a FREE PRESS reporter, R. H. Sugarmon, Memphis Attorney said there seems to be some 25,000 votes missing from the results of last week's primary election. Sugarmon was one of five Negroes who were running for several posts on the State Democratic executive committee. He said that the deficiency shows up from several angles, but it will take some research to know whether it is something that can be proved or not. He said that the group he represents is anxious that they be able to get some federal help on this issue, because it becomes useless for a citizen to register and vote if the results are going to be tampered with.

Sugarmon said that there were several "controlled wards" in the city that were nearly all Negro. It was from these wards that they were able to make their projection that disclosed the shortage. He reported that the hotly contested campaign caused a large turnout. The percent of registered Negroes that voted was between 60-70 percent. That means that between 50,000 and 55,000 ballots were cast by Memphis Negroes.

Three of the five Negroes on the ballot ran unopposed and were elected. The highest of these received 48,000 votes. This candidate was not as well known in the Negro community as was Sugarmon and Turner, two candidates that lost who received about half that amount. Had they received the same amount as the unopposed candidates they would have won easily. Sugarmon said that some of their poll watchers reported that 9 out of 10 of the Negroes that voted had the sample slate of candidates with them that included a check mark for Sugarmon and Turner. But the votes did not appear.

Sugarmon said, "This is a crucial problem I think it happened before in 1959 when another Negro ran." He said that the loss of the 25,000 votes also affected a very crucial race which Pritchard, who was supported by both the labor elements and the Negro group. Pritchard was opposing Clifford Davis who is the present congressman from the Memphis district. Davis is a conservative. Sugarmon also said that the vote shortage also affected a race for County Circuit Clerk.

Sugarmon carefully pointed out to the FREE PRESS that the vote deficiency would be very difficult to prove, but that they knew the number who signed in to pick up their ballots. "It would be generous to estimate that even 5,000 people could have been so confused as to not know to vote in the hotly contested races," he said. "but 25,000 simply seems too high." "We hope we can do something about it."

Citizenship Education Workshop

Questions And Answers About Poll Tax

In Mississippi in order to vote you must first register and then pay your poll tax. Even if you are a registered voter you cannot vote at election time unless you have paid the poll tax for this year. The poll tax in most counties is \$2 a year, but in some counties it is \$3 a year.

QUESTION: WHEN AND WHERE DO I PAY MY POLL TAX?

ANSWER: You pay your poll tax at the sheriff's office at your county courthouse in January of each year. February 1, is the last day on which payment will be accepted.

The sheriff will give you a poll tax receipt which you must save and present at the polls when you vote. Thus if you wish to vote in November, 1963, you must pay your poll tax in January, 1963.

The sheriff will not send you a notice to come down and pay the tax, so keep this column and remember the date.

Q: Must my wife pay also?

A: Yes, every man or woman between the ages of 21 and 60 must pay a poll tax.

Q: Can I vote if I am over 60?

A: Certainly. You must go to the county clerk's office with social security papers, army discharge papers, a driver's license or other proof of your age. He will give you an Exemption Certificate which is good forever afterward. Take it to the polls with you when you vote.

Q: For the past two years I have been serving in the army and have not paid my taxes. Can I vote?

A: Yes. Go to the County Clerk's office with your discharge papers. He will give you an Exemption Certificate which excuses you from the poll tax for those years during which you were in the army.

Q: I am 35 years old and have never paid my poll taxes. If I want to start voting now, must I pay all those back taxes?

A: No. The law requires you to pay only one back tax. Thus if you pay \$4 (in some counties, \$6) next January, you will be able to vote in November, 1963. Unfortunately, if you have failed to pay your taxes in the past, you cannot vote in the Primary Election in August. You have

to wait until you have paid two taxes on time in a row. Thus you will be able to vote in the Primary in June, 1964. That's a long way off, but now is the time to get started.

Q: May one person pay the poll tax for several others?

A: Yes. In many areas of the state, Masons' and Elks' Lodges, Voters' Leagues and Churches have started "Poll Tax Clubs". Each member contributes 20 cents a month from March through December. Then in January, the president and treasurer of the club take the money to the sheriff's office and get a separate receipt for each member of the club. This plan saves many people a trip to the sheriff's office and let's them pay their taxes in installments. Why not start a "Poll Tax Club" at your Church this week? There is still plenty of time to collect money for next January.

Q: What becomes of the money which I pay out for poll taxes?

A: The money is used to build schools and pay teachers. Most of it comes right back to your own home county. Thus by paying our poll taxes we become qualified voters, are looked up to as responsible citizens, and at the same time provide a better education for our children. Quite a bargain for two dollars!

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Petition Seeks—

(Continued from Page One)

Negroes being allowed to register without harassment.

In serving the petitions, several alternatives will be used. They will be presented to the President of the United States, requesting that he act under Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment, which provides for reduced representation in proportion to the number of persons denied the right to vote who are of voting age. The petitions will also be presented to the Speaker of the House and to the Vice President of the United States as the President of the Senate to initiate enactment of Legislation to enforce Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Also, the petitions will be presented to the Speaker of the House so that the House of Representatives might itself enforce the Second Section of the Fourteenth Amendment. The final move will be to present the petitions along with the initiation of formal

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History Of Clyde Kennard...

—The second in a series of articles on Clyde Kennard, a young Negro man who unsuccessfully applied to Mississippi Southern College. Clyde Kennard is now serving out a 7 year sentence at Parchman State Penitentiary.

By Ronald A. Hollander

Clyde Kennard had known the president of Miss Southern before he had applied for admission. Not only had he known him, "he had trusted him." And despite the fact that Dr. McCain had been known to be friendly with the Citizens' Council, Kennard continued to trust him, in the way that he trusted most people. Kennard had been cautioned against confiding in McCain, but he "had confidence in people," confidence in his own judgement, and dismissed his well meaning friends. Thus, he took no special notice of McCain's calling him the morning of his interview to find out just when he expected to be on campus.

Although his application to MSC had received advance

proceedings dealing with the contesting elections. Authority for such proceedings may be found in the Constitution of the United States, itself, and in the United States code.

Attorney William L. Higgs, legal advisor to the drive for signatures, feels that the petitions will be presented in Washington sometime soon after the November 6 General Election when Whitten will be officially elected. It is expected that a group of Mississippi Negro leaders will seek President Kennedy's help at that time.

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publicity, Kennard had not wanted it that way. Nor had he wanted legal intervention in his behalf, if it could be helped. In a letter to the editor of The American newspaper he wrote:

"This has led me to request that I be permitted to enroll at Mississippi Southern College, without a court order to do so. I, too, am a solid believer in the ability of the individual States to control their own affairs — I have done all that is within my power to follow a reasonable course in this matter . . . I have tried to make it clear that my love for the State of Mississippi . . . is equal to any man's alive. The thought of presenting this request before a Federal Court for consideration with all the publicity and misrepresentation which that would bring about makes my heart heavy . . ."

Kennard "liked to do things on his own." He had had previous conferences with McCain. He was grateful for, but rejected, NAACP offers of help; in perhaps a naive, trusting manner, he "hoped to talk his way in."

On Tuesday morning, September, 15, 1959, Clyde Kennard left his home on the outskirts of Hattiesburg, driving his late model Mercury sta-

tion wagon. He had his mother and another woman in the car with him. He drove towards MSC, stopping once or twice, dropping off his mother and the other woman. He arrived on campus and went in to see McCain.

Inside, McCain was not alone. Zack J. Van Landingham, chief investigator for the Sovereignty Commission had apparently just happened by and was present throughout Kennard's interview with McCain. After some 12 or 15 minutes, the interview ended. Kennard returned to his car, only to be placed under arrest by two waiting constables for reckless driving.

The application had been rejected. The college's statement read: "Clyde Kennard, a Negro presumably residing in Forrest County, today appeared at MSC in connection with his request to be admitted to the college. He was denied because of deficiencies and irregularities in his application papers." McCain could not reveal the irregularities because "once a prospective student's records become a part of the registrar's records we are prohibited from releasing any part of that information except on the student's request."

McCain added, "Generally,

we went over what we had discussed in the past. He was determined to press his application. And we denied it. That's about it." Speaking to the United Press International newsmen he indicated, "hundreds of students are refused admission every year for the same reasons listed in Kennard's rejection."

Kennard, himself, said that he had been given three reasons for his rejection: Irregularities in his medical records making his "moral character" questionable, MSC's not having received his records from the University of Chicago, and the University of Chicago's having denied him readmission after three years attendance, a statement which Kennard held was untrue.

Constables Lee Daniels and Charlie Ward denied having advance knowledge of Kennard's pre-publicized plan to enroll at MSC, although there were several law officers on the campus when Kennard arrived, including Highway Patrol Chief Bill Hood. Kennard was driven to the police station in the constables' car, while one of the officers drove his station wagon.

As the prisoner was being questioned, one of the constables entered with 5 half-pints of liquor, claiming they were found under the front seat of Kennard's car. Clyde Kennard was booked under charges of reckless driving and illegal possession of liquor.

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13 In Greenwood—

(Continued from Page One) names will have to be run in the newspaper for three weeks. If the person returns after that time, he is then allowed to take the test and attempt to qualify to vote.

The thirteen in Greenwood are the first attempt of putting this new law into effect that the FREE PRESS has seen. It is clear that the law was passed in order to discourage those who might be fearful of having their names listed in the paper. What effect this will have in Greenwood is yet to be seen. The fact that the thirteen were not denied as were the two earlier people does not mean that all is well in Greenwood.

Clarksdale Fund—

(Continued from Page One) tion of each Negro child. Discriminatory practices are limited to the distribution of funds based on the number of pupils, however, Negro teachers receive only the minimum state salary from the state treasury. White teachers, on the other hand, have their salaries supplemented from local funds.

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Policeman Indicted In N. C. Killing; Community Aroused

Graham, N. C. — A Coroner's Jury has bound over Patrolman Joe Jucinic to the Grand Jury for action in the killing of Melvin White of Siler City on July 14. Jucinic says that he fired into the ground in warning, but that the bullet ricocheted and struck the Negro man, fleeing after being arrested for drunkenness. An autopsy revealed two bullet wounds, however, and no evidences of alcohol in the dead man's body.

Under North Carolina law it is illegal for the police to shoot in connection with a misdemeanor such as drunkenness. Prior to the action of the Coroner's Jury, over 200 Negroes met with the Siler City Mayor and Police Chief demanding that, at least, Jucinic be fired and a Negro policeman be hired in his place. Mayor Donald L. Paschall said that he would not "pre-judge" Jucinic, and that he had considered hiring a Negro policeman but could not act without orders from the County Commissioners.

The group retained Durham NAACP attorney Floyd McKissick to represent the deceased White. This was the fifth such racial incident in as many years in Chatham County. However, the retaining of the NAACP attorney, and the subsequent action of the Coroner's Jury, is felt by many to indicate a shift in race relations in this rural Piedmont North Carolina County.

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Airport Operator Quits Airport Restaurant Contract Relieved

As the result of affidavits filed in federal court charging segregation practices, the contract of Cicero W. Carr, operator of Jackson Municipal Airport's only restaurant, has been canceled. Three staff members of the FREE PRESS were among those who filed the affidavits late last week. Carr's lawyer, presumably upon learning of the affidavits, notified the city council on Monday morning, August 6, that Carr wished to be relieved of the contract. The city council immediately complied.

Airport Director, T. A. Turner, in an interview with the FREE PRESS, explained that, "Carr wanted to be let out of the contract. Also, we weren't too happy with the operation." Turner indicated that for the time being the restaurant would be run by the Airport Authority on a limited basis, with stand-up service only for both whites and Negroes, alike, a system which Carr also followed. However, the private dining room, which Carr — against federal court order — had been running on a white only basis, would now be closed entirely to the public and would be available only to the some 200 persons employed at the airport.

"Even people coming in on planes would use the stand-up counter," Turner explained. These provisions, however, were only temporary, Turner indicated. When asked by the FREE PRESS whether, once the restaurant was operating on a normal basis, Negroes would be seated in the dining area, Turner said, "It's too far ahead to tell. We're only neophytes in

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"Pretend you have reservations because there's colored people out there." You're wondering whether you should have called up and made reservations? "Oh, no, we don't do that anymore. We tried that at first, but colored people used to call up, too, and we couldn't tell the difference."

So, testify affidavits filed late last week, explained a waitress at Cicero's restaurant, the Jackson Municipal Airport's only eating establishment. Signed by four white persons and one Negro, the affidavits testify to the fact that although whites were allowed to eat in the dining room, Negroes were denied this right and were served only at a stand-up counter outside of the dining room, proper.

The six affidavits, dated August 3 and 4, and referring to events of the 2nd and

the restaurant business, you know."

Judge Stennet, city attorney, explained to the FREE PRESS that Carr's lawyer had contacted him at Mayor Thompson's office at about 11 a. m. on August 6, saying that Carr wished to be relieved of the contract. Stennet pointed out that the contract had provided for one month notice, but that arrangements had been reached providing for the immediate termination of the contract.

After nearly a year of legal maneuvering, a federal court early this summer had ordered the restaurant, the airport's rest-rooms and the water fountains desegregated. Carr then removed the stools from his counter area, building a partition around a dining room which he marked as being reserved for airport employees and flight personnel. However, the affidavits charged that discrimination was still being practiced at the restaurant.

Carr, when reached for comment by the FREE PRESS, somewhat sourly responded, "Man, go to h---, that's what I tell you."

3rd, further testify that when one of the whites, having previously been seated in the dining room, came out and invited the Negro to join him at his table as his guest, both were refused admittance to the dining room. A waitress blocked the doorway to the dining area, saying, "You can't go in there."

The affidavits were signed by Robert Johnson, Peter Gilbert, Lucy Barker, and Ronald Hollander, all whites, and by Negro Dewey Greene. In each case, the location referred to in the affidavit was Cicero's airport restaurant.

The restaurant, as it had been remodeled following a federal court order of early summer, includes a stand-up counter, a dining area marked off as being reserved for airport employees and flight personnel, and a table-clothed "romantically lighted" dining room, supposedly accessible only to those having reservations.

The affidavits testify that white persons have been seated without having, nor without having been asked for, reservations. However, when Negroes are present at the counter area white persons are told to "pretend" that they have reservations. Efforts on the part of Negroes to secure these "reservations" whether by phone or in person, have been futile.

The restaurant, along with other airport facilities, had been ordered desegregated by a federal District Judge Sidney Mize's court order prohibiting discrimination towards Negroes at the airport. The affidavits demonstrate that the order still had not been carried out.

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