

Conservatives Lose House Rules Battle

(See Political Analysis On Page 3)

The U. S. House of Representatives voted decisively to retain a 15 member Rules Committee Wednesday. Liberals and moderates banded together to beat a coalition of conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats who wanted a 12 member committee which they would have controlled.

Kills Civil Rights

All legislation approved by other House committees must go through the Rules Committee before it is sent to the floor of the House. In the past, when the committee had 12 members, a coalition of four Republicans and two Southern Democrats — Chairman Howard Smith of Virginia and Mississippi's William Colmer, have been able to kill all liberal and civil rights measures.

Rep. Henry Reuss of Wisconsin declared, "the graveyards are strewn with the corpses of legislative measures which he (Smith) and his Rules Committee have hi-jacked."

Liberals Got Together

The leader of the Republicans in the House, Charles Halleck of Indiana, stated that he would do whatever he could to prevent the enlargement of the committee. However, 27 labor, church, civil rights and other liberal groups sent letters to congressmen urging support of the expanded committee.

There was some support for the larger committee from Georgia, Florida and North Carolina, and Mississippi's congressmen accused those legislators of "selling out." Mississippi, as was expected, voted against the liberal measure.

Although the liberals and moderates should have an 8-7 majority over the conservatives, it didn't always work that way last year when this same size committee was in effect. Rep. John Blatnik of Minnesota and Rep. Reuss want to adopt rules limiting the committee's power to block legislation permanently. They

want to allow bills to by-pass the Rules Committee after they have been considered for 21 days.

Senate Filibuster

Senate liberals also have a fight on their hands when the upper house gets down to serious business after the President's State of the Union message Monday. They are trying to curb the filibuster, a favorite Southern device for killing civil rights measures.

In the Senate, there is unlimited debate unless 2/3 of the members vote to stop debate. This is a very difficult number to attain, and liberals would like to reduce the vote needed.

However, although President Kennedy supported the liberals' effort to expand the Rules Committee, he is giving no aid to those battling the filibuster.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota said that he hoped the President "would be as interested in the rules of the Senate as he is in those of the House."

Students Are Released On \$1,500 Bond Each

Two youths held on \$15,000 bond each on charges of transporting and possessing barbituates were freed this week when bond was reduced to \$1,500 each.

Circuit Judge E. H. Green set the new bond at a habeas corpus in Clarksdale. Benjamin Taylor and Ivanhoe Donaldson, students at Michigan State University, were arrested when they arrived in Clarksdale with a load of food, clothing and medicine for impoverished Negroes in the Delta.

After their release, Donaldson and Taylor announced their intention to take legal action against the Clarksdale police. They assert that during their first day in jail, they were forced to stand in the middle of a cell, not permitted to talk and not fed.

Donaldson said, "The chief came around with a friend and I think he called us everything he could think of. The 21 year old youth said that police didn't search the truck with the supplies until 24 hours after their arrest."

Food Stolen

Taylor stated that the truck and supplies were returned Monday, but that some of the food was stolen and oil was splashed on some of the clothing. "It looked like a couple of vandals had gotten into the truck and had a gay old time," he asserted.

Clarksdale Police Chief Ben Collins denied the charges.

The Grand Jury is scheduled to meet next week to prepare the indictment.

Ministers Speak Out On Discrimination

Two Ministers Receive Threats And Pressure After Signing Statement

Two of the Methodist ministers who signed a statement opposing racial discrimination have run into discord within their congregations.

Rev. Bill Lampton left Pisgah, Mississippi, Saturday afternoon after members of his church said they were afraid that violence might occur. Friday night, someone slashed two tires on Rev. Lampton's car and let the air out of the others.

Another Ole Miss

The minister said, "It looked like I had another Ole Miss on my hands." He stated that leading members of his congregation "came to me to advise me of the fact that they were fearful for church property, and that there were rumors of group action."

A committee of stewards has been formed to investigate a "possible conflict" between the pastor's position and that of his congregation. Lampton said he did not know if he would return.

Purpose Not Integration

Stewards and members of the Lake Church met with another of the declaration's signers, Rev. Wilton Carter. Carter, however, told the group that "the purpose of the resolution was not to bring about integration of the Lake charge."

Methodist regulations provide that no church can be integrated without the approval of two-thirds of the congregation. Rev. Carter said that in opposing discrimination, Methodists were "merely advocating fair treatment."

Document 'Born Of Conviction' Braves Blasts; Gains Support

Twenty-eight white Methodist ministers last week called for an end to discrimination based on race, color or creed. They were quickly joined by 23 other Methodist clergymen and the Lay Leader and Associate Lay Leader of the Mississippi Conference of the Church.

The statement, entitled "Born of Conviction," was printed and endorsed in the Mississippi Methodist Advocate, the official newspaper of the Church. It drew support from 23 ministers meeting the next day on Okolona and from Mississippi Conference Lay Leader Dr. J. P. Stafford.

Against Force

A week later the Advocate appeared to temper its original support of the ministers' statement in an editorial which said, "The Church has a very sane approach which does not lend itself to the support of either forced integration or forced segregation but to Christ's teachings with regards to all human relationships."

In the "Born of Conviction" statement, the ministers declared that they felt the need to make their views public in the wake of the "grave crises precipitated by racial discord within our state in recent months."

They asserted that, as Christian ministers, they had "a particular obligation to speak," and said that they knew that "many others share these affirmations."

Official Creed

The declaration spoke of the need for "an atmosphere for responsible belief and free expression" and affirmed their support of the official Methodist creed that Christ "permits no discrimination because of race, color or creed."

"We are unalterably opposed to the closing of public schools on any level or to the diversion of tax funds to the support of private or sectarian schools," the ministers said.

The statement was printed in the January 2 edition of the Methodist Advocate, with a state-wide circulation of 185,000. In his introduction, editor Sam Ashmore wrote, "We feel they express the conviction of the vast majority of the clerical members of the conference."

Free Pulpit

In an editorial in the same issue (Continued on Page 4)

Jackson Minister Says, 'Segregation Is Wrong'

The pastor of the largest Methodist congregation in the State last Sunday declared, "Forced Segregation is wrong. We should voluntarily desegregate all public facilities."

Dr. W. B. Selah, pastor of the Galloway Memorial Methodist Church in Jackson, stated: "We must seek for all men, black and white, the same opportunities that we seek for ourselves."

Color Bar Sinful

He asserted, "there can be no color bar in a Christian church," and said that it was sinful "to erect a color bar before the Cross of Christ. As Christians, we cannot say to anyone, 'you cannot come into the House of God.'"

Dr. Selah declared, "Every American citizen, black or white, is entitled to the best educational opportunity the state affords. . . . The public schools must be kept open."

The Jackson minister, who has been pastor at Galloway for 17 years — the longest of any minister in the state — said that his statement was taken from a sermon delivered in November, 1961, and printed under the title "Brotherhood."

More Justice Dept. Suits Aim To Stop Voting Discrimination

The 5th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans has temporarily halted Justice Department inspection of voting records in Hinds, Lauderdale and Madison Counties.

The investigation was first stopped when Judge Harold Cox issued a stay on his order to permit examination of the records in order to give state officials a chance to appeal the decision. Then the Circuit Court overruled Cox's stay, but issued a stay on its own ruling to permit both the state and the Justice Department to present arguments.

The government completed

its study of Lauderdale records last month and has not yet begun to inspect records in Madison County. Cox first ordered the Registrars of the three counties to open their records September 14.

Just Harassment

Meanwhile, Justice Department officials photographing records in those counties will merely move on to work in other Mississippi counties. One Justice Department agent said that they expect to win the case and return within a few weeks to complete their work. He

(Continued on Page 3)

C. R. Hearings Postponed Because Of Contempt Case

The U. S. Civil Rights Commission has again postponed hearings in Mississippi at the request of Attorney General Robert Kennedy. However, Commission Chairman John A. Hannah, President of Michigan State University, made clear that he did not agree with the decision to call off the public hearings.

The hearings were first set for October, 1962, then for December, 1962 and finally for this month. The Commission postponed the October and December meetings because of tensions which followed the Ole Miss riots.

Kennedy Wrote Hannah

Kennedy wrote Hannah that (Continued on Page 4)

CORRECTION

Our printer mistakenly pulled a switch last week when we asked him to print a picture of Clyde Kennard. The gentleman identified as Mr. Kennard on Page 1 was Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of the NAACP.

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BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

Editorial Page

Better Educational Opportunities

Education or the lack of it is something that we talk about quite a bit.

If we seem to keep talking about the importance of education, it's only because we are. We think it's important and will continue to talk about it. When we speak of education in Mississippi, what we are mostly speaking of is the lack of it.

We have seen, on a couple of occasions, the results of simple mathematics tests taken by young adults who have had some college training. These tests included simple addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and a few simple algebraic problems.

It was clear from watching them work the problems that numbers were not easy. Figures did not get together quickly in their heads. They certainly were not sure of their answers. Several could not even attempt to work the algebra.

One of the saddest things, however, was that even the problems that they knew how to do, they often got wrong, because they did not go back and check their work. People who work with figures all of the time and who are good with them still always check their answers.

Of course, it is always good to go back to check answers in any test but especially in mathematics. With numbers, there is only one right answer. Unless one adds when he is supposed to subtract or in some way does the wrong process, checking will always find a mistake.

But most did not go back and check. As a result they failed the test. Had they gotten perfect those problems they knew how to do, they would have passed even without doing the algebra.

Unfortunately this is an example of what is not taught in most Negro public schools in this state: the discipline to be careful, to check, re-check if necessary, and be absolutely sure of at least that material that is understood.

A person who is not taught to go back and check his addition probably does not learn to go back and check his thoughts either. The result is that even good ideas that are not thought through carefully, do not succeed because of a detail that was not anticipated. Learning to think clearly has to be taught, just as mathematics has to be taught, and part of both is the discipline to check and recheck.

In addition to having the right answer, one can know he has the right answer or he can know that an idea is a good one. Instead of being hesitant and scared about the idea, the person could be confident and eager.

The people who took these tests were not dumb. In fact they were intelligent, interesting people. They simply had not been adequately taught.

Clearly the schools are weak. Of course, time and again the many bright new school buildings for Negro children are pointed out, but unfortunately bright school buildings do not necessarily produce bright students. What is needed are bright new teachers.

But in order to attract bright new teachers to our schools, and in order to keep them, we need two things. We need higher salaries and more freedom from political harassment. In order to get these salaries and these freedoms, we get back to the old basic—the vote.

Until pressure can be put on the school boards to raise teachers' pay—they won't. Until pressure is put on the school board to keep from threatening to fire any teacher who thinks some new thoughts—they will continue to fire away. The only kind of pressure Mr. School Board member feels is a possible vote against him.

We must improve our schools. We must register and pay our poll taxes so that we will be in a position to cast our vote for better educational opportunities.

From McComb

Both Races Hindered By Bad Voting Laws

Time and again, we find that our state is on the bottom of the list of this category and that. We have the lowest teacher's pay, poorest schools, last in industry, lowest per capita income . . .

In the following article, John Emmerich of the McComb Enterprise Journal points out another category in which Mississippi wins last place.

Reprinted from the McComb Enterprise Journal
By John Emmerich

Only 298,171 Mississippians voted for president in '60—a hotly contested election—and there are 1,170,522 Mississippians 21 years old and older.

That means only about 25 per cent voted, which ranks at the bottom in voter participation among the nation's 50 states.

Constitution

The pattern for our voting laws began back before the Constitutional Convention of 1890 when Mississippi still had the memory of Reconstruction days fresh in its mind.

"Black Republican" rule—Negro and Carpetbagger-led—had just about ruined Mississippi. Negroes who a few years before had been illiterate field-hand slaves found themselves occupying positions of political authority.

When white rule returned, Mississippi leaders were determined to prevent any recurrence of the Reconstruction nightmare.

The Constitutional Convention of 1890 wrote this voting pattern into the Mississippi Constitution where it has remained down until the present.

Most Mississippians today have forgotten it, but that constitution had the effect of disfranchising thousands of white Mississippians along with the Negroes.

Until this day in Mississippi we treat voting as though it were something of a private affair, the way it was considered back in the early days of the Republic when most states required that only property holders or men of considerable financial holdings could vote.

Andy Jackson's Impact

Old President Andy Jackson and his Tennessee backwoodsmen changed a lot of that and started a democratization of America which hasn't stopped rolling yet. One of the main features of Jacksonian democracy—as the historians term it—was that government became the business of everyone, not just the wealthy and the aristocratic.

Voting became something which everybody had a right to—not just the few. Laws all across the nation were changed to make more public offices elective rather than appointive. The voters began to elect judges. Senators became elected by the people rather than by state legislatures.

It was Andy Jackson who, more than anyone else, was responsible for the broadening base of American democracy—and the ballot was the primary vehicle of this change.

But Not In Miss.

In Mississippi, the Constitution of 1890 reversed this process, and it has stayed reversed ever since.

Few Vote

Not many citizens vote in our state. We make it hard to vote. We require long waiting periods (two years for new residents from out of state and one year for new residents from inside the state).

We have complicated literacy (Continued on Page 5)

This Form Will Help You Register To Vote

This is the form that you will be asked to fill out when you register to vote. Write the answers to numbers 1 to 17 and 20 on this page to practice. When you go to register at the County Court House in your county, answer all the questions carefully and use your common sense to copy and interpret the Mississippi Constitution for numbers 18 and 19.

If you think that the Registrar has given you an unfair section to explain, write to the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, Washington, D. C. to tell them. The Justice Department has been conducting investigations and court cases to protect the right of everyone to vote.

But the Justice Department can't help you unless you go to the Court House and register. Remember, the U. S. government is on your side.

Register, pay your poll tax, and vote!

Sworn Written Application For Registration

(By reason of the provisions of Section 244 of the Constitution of Mississippi and House Bill No. 95, approved March 24, 1955, the applicant for registration, if not physically disabled, is required to fill in this form in his own handwriting in the presence of the registrar and without assistance or suggestion of any other person or memorandum.)

1. Write the date of this application:_____
2. What is your full name?_____
3. State your age and date of birth:_____
4. What is your occupation?_____
5. Where is your business carried on?_____
6. By whom are you employed?_____
7. Are you a citizen of the United States and an inhabitant of Mississippi?_____
8. For how long have you resided in Mississippi?_____
9. Where is your place of residence in the district?_____
10. Specify the date when such residence began:_____
11. State your prior place of residence, if any:_____
12. Check which oath you desire to take: (1) General_____
- (2) Minister's_____ (3) Minister's Wife_____ (4) if under 21 years at present, but 21 years by date of general election_____
13. If there is more than one person of your same name in the precinct, by what name do you wish to be called?_____
14. Have you ever been convicted of any of the following crimes: bribery, theft, arson, obtaining money or goods under false pretenses, perjury, forgery, embezzlement, or bigamy?_____
15. If your answer to Question 14 is "Yes," name the crime or crimes of which you have been convicted, and the date and place of such conviction or convictions:_____
16. Are you a minister of the gospel in charge of an organized church, or the wife of such a minister?_____
17. If you answer to Question 16 is "Yes," state the length of your residence in the election district:_____
18. Write and copy in the space below, Section_____ of the Constitution of Mississippi:
(Instruction to Registrar: You will designate the section of the Constitution and point out same to applicant.)
19. Write in the space below a reasonable interpretation (the meaning) of the section of the Constitution of Mississippi which you have just copied:_____
20. Write in the space below a statement setting forth your understanding of the duties and obligations of citizenship under a constitutional form of government._____
21. Sign and attach hereto the oath or affirmation named in Question 12._____

The applicant will sign his name here.

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

COUNTY OF _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me by the within named _____ on this the _____ day of _____ 19____

COUNTY REGISTRAR

MISSISSIPPI FREE PRESS

Published every Saturday by the HiCo Publishing Company, Inc., 1253 Valley Street, Jackson, Mississippi, Phone FL 5-7345.

Published weekly in Jackson, Mississippi. Entered as second-class matter at the Post office at Jackson, Mississippi.

Subscription price: \$4.00 per year — \$2.50 for six months. Ten cents per copy.

Editor Charles L. Butts
Managing Editor Lucille Komisar

More Justice . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

termed the state's legal efforts "just harassment."

HINDS COUNTY

Three Justice Department attorneys and three FBI agents spent Monday and Tuesday photographing the voter records and poll books of Hinds County.

The investigation was begun after a ruling by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans which ended legal attempts by Circuit Clerk H. T. Ashford, Jr., to prevent federal inspection. Ashford said that he would not oppose the investigation if it would place him in contempt of court to do so.

Court Order

The Justice Department first sought to view the records in July, but Ashford refused to grant its request. U. S. District Judge Cox granted the government a court order to permit inspection, but then granted Ashford a delay to let him appeal the decision to the Court of Appeals. Last week the Appeals Court set aside the stay and opened the way to federal inspection. Then Wednesday, it issued a stay on its own ruling to permit arguments by the state and the Justice Department.

The records will be sent to Washington, D. C. and analyzed for further action. The inspection is being made under the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act.

(Continued Next Week)

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Both Races . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

tests which are more than a moderately educated person can pass if administered strictly.

The reason for all this, of course, is to discourage Negro voting. And as the educational level of Mississippi Negroes has risen during the past several decades, new and more stringent obstructions have been devised.

There are about 25,000 or so Negro voters in Mississippi, which means approximately 400,000 adult Mississippi Negroes did not vote in the 1960 election.

But the voting figures indicate that an even larger number of white Mississippi adults—479,000—did not vote.

Most of Mississippi's voting laws currently are under challenge by the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, and one knowledgeable attorney has advised me that Mississippi has only a slim chance of winning the suit which is pending.

If the Justice Department wins, Mississippi's long-standing voting pattern and voting laws will be swept aside, and the political effect may be revolutionary.

Poll Tax Is Due

This is the new year—January—and that means poll-tax-paying time. This one is important, for poll taxes will have to be paid this January and last in order for voters to be qualified for the big gubernatorial election.

Poll taxes will have to be paid up this January and next for the presidential election of 1964.

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A Political Interpretation**The Dixiecrat-Republican Coalition**

An extremely significant battle took place in the House of Representatives Wednesday and another skirmish in the same conflict will occur in the U. S. Senate next week. The goal on both fronts is the control of two strategic legislative weapons and the antagonists in the contest are the two real parties in the United States.

Coalition

Although political figures are usually designated as either Republicans or Democrats, the real parties in Congress are the liberal and moderate Democrats and the coalition between the conservative Republicans and the Southern Democrats.

The Southern Democrats long ago ceased to have anything in common with the rest of their party. However, because of their bad memories of Reconstruction and the hatred of the name Republican which developed, white Southerners created the one-party South and voted for Democrats year-in and year-out.

Seniority

A direct result of this was that Southern Democrats built up more seniority—years of service—than any other group in the country. Since important posts in Congress, such as committee chairmanships, are given on the basis of seniority, Southerners have far more power than legislators from any other part of the country.

For example, Dixiecrats are the chairmen of 9 out of 16 House committees which deal with national affairs. In the Senate, they head 10 of the 13 committees which rule on national issues.

Money Power

Southerners also control the power to appropriate money for domestic programs—a power which can be used to kill measures they don't like. Southern Democrats control 7 of the 12 appropriations subcommittees which decide on

funds for national programs in the House. Senate Dixiecrats chair 8 of the 10 appropriations subcommittees in that house.

By working with conservative Republicans who essentially share their ideas, the Dixiecrats have become the base of a conservative coalition which opposes almost every liberal measure introduced—from civil rights to medical care for the aged. The Republicans agree to vote against civil rights and the Southern Democrats support the conservative economic policies of the GOP. The only ones who lose are the people.

Rules Committee

The fight in the House was over the number of members in the Rules Committee. In the past it has been 12 men, with control resting with four Republicans and two Dixiecrats, including William Colmer of Mississippi. Two years ago, the liberals managed to increase the membership to 15 and thus get a slim majority. They succeeded in doing this again this year.

The reason why this is so important is that the Rules Committee must pass on every piece of legislation that goes to the floor of the House. Thus it can kill any measure it doesn't like.

Although the majority party is supposed to hold the most seats, when the seats are given out, they are given to Republicans and Democrats. However, since the real parties in the U. S. are the Democrats and

the Dixiecrat-Republicans, the Democrats end up in the minority. The highest ranking members of the Rules Committee are Howard Smith of Virginia and William Colmer of Mississippi—men who completely disagree with the national program of the Democratic Party.

Filibuster

In the Senate, Southerners not only control committees, but they use the filibuster to stop and modify all really liberal legislation. The Senate has a rule permitting unlimited debate which can only be cut off by a 2/3 vote; this is very difficult to attain.

Thus, when a Senator introduces a bill which has majority support but not 2/3 support, Senators who oppose the bill filibuster—they talk for hours and threaten to hold up the business of the Senate until the bill is withdrawn. This technique has been used extensively to kill civil rights laws.

Want To End Debate

Liberal Democratic Senators are trying to make it easier to avoid the filibuster by reducing the vote necessary to end debate. This important battle will begin after the President gives his State of the Union message Monday, January 14.

The President will put forward his proposals for Congress for the year 1963—and then the nation's two political forces, the Democrats and the Dixiecrat-Republicans, will begin many months of bitter battling over the fate of the U. S.

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Ministers Speak . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

sue, Ashford said that "one may not agree with all the minister says, and yet, he must respect his convictions. . . . Give us a free pulpit or we shall soon be without any freedom."

Twenty-three ministers the next day voted to back the "Born of Conviction" statement which was introduced at their monthly district meeting by District Superintendent W. L. Robinson. "Twenty-three ministers enthusiastically voted for the resolution, and six abstained," said Dr. Robinson. "No one voted against it."

The Methodist leader declared, "I felt that it was one of the most comprehensive statements on this subject that I have read. A Methodist minister must go by the Scripture, the position of the church and his own conscience."

Support From Lay Leaders
Dr. J. P. Stafford, January 3, made a statement which was published in the January 9 issue of the Methodist Advocate. Dr. Stafford "heartily endorsed" the "Born of Conviction" statement and declared that it "should strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all Pastors and loyal laymen."

"It is hard for many of us to go along with the great Methodist Church and changing times, in matters of race," he said, "but this is an adjustment Christians can make. Let's face it, Brotherhood is as much a part of the teachings of Jesus Christ as Salvation and Faith. This leaves no place for hate and ill-will."

Listened Silently
Associate Lay Leader Francis B. Stevens wrote in the same issue, "For far too long, the concerned Christians of Mississippi, particularly those who

live in the Jackson vicinity, have listened silently to the expressions of hatred made by political leaders whose minds are filled with fear.

"It ought not to be necessary for Christian Ministers to issue public statements voicing their belief in the brotherhood of man. In recent times, however, organized pressure groups have deliberately created a climate of fear and hatred in Mississippi to the extent that only the most courageous Christians have been willing to state publicly their love and respect for every individual human being, regardless of the color of his skin."

Welcome Relief

Stevens stated his agreement with "all of the points" made in the "Born of Conviction" statement and declared, "It is a welcome relief to know that such a large group of our Mississippi Ministers are in accord with the official position of our denomination."

In the issue following publication of the original declaration, the Methodist Advocate editorially stated, "By our silence, we have allowed, if not encouraged, conditions to exist which tend toward violence, suspicion and ill-will."

Church Vs. Politicians

"The clergy has been caught between the conflicting interests and fears of arch integrationists and ardent segregationist. They have been pressured to keep silent by some groups and to speak by those seeking the Church's help. They have been caught between the position of the Church and political leaders with regard to social and moral concerns."

The editorial called for a "Christian spirit" among Methodists who disagreed with each other.

C. R. Hearings . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

public hearings might raise the accusation that the Commission was working with the Justice Department to prejudice opinion in the contempt case against Governor Barnett and Lt. Governor Johnson.

The Attorney General wrote, "In the meantime, it seems to me that the work of the commission staff should continue, and a report could be prepared, without any need for public hearings in the state."

In calling off the hearing, Hannah declared, "We must state in all candor that this decision is difficult for us" since our preliminary work indicates that the situation in Mississippi urgently requires investigation.

Commission's Obligations

The Commission Chairman asserted, "While the department has the power to prosecute action to eliminate specific deprivations of constitutional rights, the commission also has statutory obligations it must discharge."

Hannah declared that "the few persons in Mississippi who have spoken out for law and order have been subjected to increasing harassment and intimidation. This has certainly been the case with the courageous members of our bi-racial Mississippi advisory committee, who have consistently urged us to hold hearings in the state."

He stated that current investigations will continue, even though no hearings will be held this month.

Program Celebrates Slaves' Emancipation

The Jackson NAACP is sponsoring a special public meeting to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Sunday, January 13, Mississippi Field Secretary Medgar Evers will speak on "One Hundred Years of Physical Freedom."

In her invitation to the public, Mrs. Doris Allison, chapter President, declared, "Since the Emancipation Proclamation, the life of the Negro in America has been a twisted series of crisis. The Negro has had to stumble in an artificial darkness, on the fringe of light, because the darkness was created deliberately to befuddle him."

The Emancipation Proclamation Program will be held at 3 p.m. at the Pearl Street A.M.E. Church.

New Suit Asks JD, FBI To Enforce Law

Eight Mississippians have filed a federal suit calling for the immediate arrest and prosecution of law officers and other individuals who have violated the constitutional rights of civil rights supporters. The action asked the U. S. District Court in Washington, D. C. to order Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover to direct their agents to enforce civil rights statutes.

The suit was based in part on—federal laws which make it a crime for anyone, including law enforcement officials, to harm or threaten a person seeking to exercise his constitutional rights or deny him those rights through local law or custom.

It is against federal law for law officers to refuse to prevent and act against such crimes, and U. S. attorneys and marshals are required to prosecute people who violate these statutes.

The eight plaintiffs are Robert Moses, Charles Cobb, Hollis Watkins, Lafayette Surney, Charles McLaurin, Sam Block, Jesse Harris, all working to register Negro voters, and William Higgs, a Jackson attorney.

Official White Harassment

They claim that, in an effort to prevent Negro voter registration, "white law enforcement officials and private citizens of the state of Mississippi have and are continuing to harass, intimidate, threaten, attack, arrest, jail and unconstitutionally convict the plaintiffs and others similarly situated."

The petitioners asserted that they have repeatedly requested the Justice Department and the FBI to arrest and prosecute the law officers and individuals who violate their constitutional protections. In most cases, the group claimed, the federal officials were notified in advance

that the civil rights workers were preparing to exercise their rights in spite of the threats of local law enforcement authorities. The suit charges that the federal officials have "systematically refused to take action."

The complaint cited incidents in which each of the plaintiffs was subject to intimidation, attack or arrest by local officials. Bob Moses, it said, was beaten by county officials and other citizens when he took two Negro farmers to register at the Court House in Liberty.

J. D. Refused Help

Sam Block and two others jumped out of a second story window in Greenwood to barely escape a lynch mob assisted by local law officers. Justice Department attorney John Doar refused Block's request for help and stated that the Justice Department could not act until someone was hurt.

The group stated that U. S. marshals, attorneys and FBI agents are required by law to arrest and prosecute anyone who deprives any citizen of his constitutional rights and privileges; although "on the spot action" by federal agents could have prevented past incidents and can prevent future harassment, the U. S. officers have continuously refused to perform their duties. They have "in effect sanctioned and perpetuated a consistent pattern" of official intimidation.

Seek Court Order

The suit seeks a court order requiring U. S. marshals and FBI agents to arrest and imprison anyone who deprives citizens of their constitutional rights and directing U. S. attorneys to institute criminal prosecutions against such persons "with all of the vigor, diligence and effort devoted to their enforcement of other laws of the United States."

The suit was filed January 2 by attorneys William Kunstler and William Higgs.

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