

Mississippi FREE PRESS

"The Truth Shall Make You Free"

Vol. 2, No. 9



Jackson, Mississippi — Saturday, February 9, 1963

10c Per Copy

4 Beatings In Brandon Result In Quick Probe

A Federal Justice Department official is in Mississippi investigating the alleged beating of four Negroes who attempted to register to vote in Rankin county, Friday, February 1. NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers has called on Attorney General Robert Kennedy to send marshals or troops to protect the rights of Negro voters there.

The four were supposed to have been beaten by County Sheriff J. R. Edwards Jr. and some of his aides as they filled out registration forms in Brandon. Edwards reportedly told them to "get out."

One of the four suffered bruises on his head and neck and scars on his face; he was sent to a doctor. The other three had minor injuries.

Sheriff Didn't Know

Sheriff Edwards claimed he knew of no such incident and said the four "must be lying."

Less than 100 Negroes are registered in Rankin County. This was the first report of violence in recent years.

Evers Saturday sent a telegram to Attorney General Kennedy, declaring:

"Yesterday's beating by the Rankin County Sheriff of four Negroes attempting to register to vote in the Circuit Clerk's office points out the urgent need for federal protection to secure voting rights in Mississippi. We strongly emphasize the need for federal registrars, marshals or troops, if necessary, to eliminate such flagrant acts of violence against would-be Negro voters."

The telegram continued, "If previous requests for federal protection from Negroes in Mississippi had been heeded, yesterday's lawless tragedy could have been averted."

Interference Attacked By Johnson; Kennedy Moves To Aid Delta

Lt. Gov. Paul Johnson said last Thursday that the Federal government has a "complete disregard for the rights of the states to handle their internal affairs." The same day Congress received a bill to solve a problem Mississippi couldn't handle—slumping cotton sales.

President Kennedy made the proposal to appease demands of the Delta planters and the National Cotton Advisory Council for an increase in cotton acreage allotments. On the same day, Johnson said the federal government has "an insatiable greed and unstinting grasp for power." He said that the federal government is destroying the "principle of liberty under the law."

The Kennedy plan is part of an omnibus farm bill affecting cotton, grain, and butter. Under the plan cotton could be

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Nearly 500 In Clarksdale Vote To Buy At Fred's, Drop Integration Petition

Nearly 500 Clarksdale citizens attended a mass meeting to decide questions of policy in their efforts to desegregate the city's public schools and end discrimination against Negro employees and customers by downtown merchants.

Clarksdale civil rights leader Dr. Aaron Henry also claimed that the sheriff's office has refused to permit Negroes to pay poll taxes for other Negroes, while allowing the same privilege to whites.

Boycott Vote

A vote of 246 to 234 decided that the boycott, now in its second year, will not include Fred's Dollar Store, which is located on the "Negro side of the tracks." The motion to boycott Fred's was tabled, meaning that consideration of the question was postponed. It can be reconsidered at any time.

The mass meeting also decided not to proceed with the petition to desegregate the public schools. The decision was based "upon the academic attainment of the majority of the 20 students involved," a public statement said.

Study Hard

The students were urged to "study hard this semester, get your grades to 'G' and 'S' . . . At this beginning point it is absolutely necessary that students with the highest academic attainment become involved."

The same public release declared that "the observation of whites paying poll taxes for other whites is supported by affidavits which will resolve this matter legally in the near future. It is our contention that it is absolutely legal to pay poll

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Higgs Faces Charges Of Contributing To Delinquency Of 16-Year-Old Runaway

Jackson police arrested civil rights attorney William Higgs last Friday on charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Higgs was arrested on the affidavit of a 16 year old Pennsylvania youth who accused him of committing homosexual acts.

The arrest came one day after Higgs, former counsel to the State Advisory Commission on Civil Rights, held a press conference announcing that he would file suit to admit a second Negro student to the University of Mississippi.

A hearing is set for Feb. 13, one day after Higgs is set to receive a New York Civil Liberties award for his work for integration in Mississippi. The

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Greene's Ole Miss Bid Goes To Circuit Court

Jackson State Cancels Student's NDEA Loan For Civil Rights Activity

A U. S. Civil Rights Commission agent is investigating the case of a Jackson State College student whose National Defense Education Act loan was supposedly cancelled because she was active in civil rights activity. Following CRC action, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has requested an explanation from the college.

Miss Helen O'Neal filed a complaint with the Commission when her loan was revoked after she passed out leaflets urging students to attend a meeting of the Jackson Nonviolent Movement during the fall.

Too Involved

The Dean of Students told Miss O'Neal that she was becoming involved in too many civil rights activities and cited her arrest last year during a boycott of Jackson stores.

Miss O'Neal complained to Jackson State President Jacob Reddix. She said that he told her the loan would be restored if she moved from the private house where she was living into a women's dormitory on the campus.

Jackson State living regulations are extraordinarily strict; women students even have to sign out when they go to classes each day and they are often not permitted to leave the campus. Since the women's dorms were already overcrowded, Miss O'Neal refused to live on the campus.

The case is still pending.

Applicant Must Seek Entrance From Commission, Judge Rules

A federal judge Monday refused to order Dewey Greene admitted to the University of Mississippi. Greene, former circulation manager of the Mississippi Free Press, is charging Registrar Robert Ellis with racial discrimination and has appealed to the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals which scheduled a hearing for Friday, Feb. 8, in New Orleans.

U. S. District Judge Sidney Mize who heard the case avoided a decision by "abstaining" in the verdict and directing Greene to appeal to the University's Commission on Admissions.

Barnett And Johnson Seek Court Dismissal Of Contempt Charges

Gov. Ross Barnett and Lt. Gov. Paul Johnson are attempting to have criminal contempt citations against them dropped because of "immunity from prosecution as elected state officials."

The citations grew out of a U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals temporary restraining order Sept. 25 which ordered Ole Miss and state officials not to interfere with the admission of James Meredith.

Refused Order

Barnett and Johnson refused to accept the order from U. S. marshals and prohibited Meredith from registering.

The motions filed February 1 by attorneys for the two officials also claim that there was no valid service of the restraining order, lack of due process of law, lack of appeals court jurisdiction, lack of a grand jury presentation and indictment, and lack of jurisdiction by the appeals court to summon a jury.

Willful Disobedience

Attorneys for the Justice Department in a brief filed later in the day hold that the only issue in the case is the "willful disobedience of federal court orders" by Barnett and Johnson.

The Justice Department brief also cites a 1958 Supreme Court ruling that criminal contempts are not subject to jury trials as a matter of constitutional rights.

May Get Jury

If the court rules that the charges constitute a felony, Barnett and Johnson will face jury trials. Otherwise, the cases will be tried as misdemeanors and handled entirely by the judges.

On Jan. 4 the appeals court ordered Barnett and Johnson to show why they should not be held in criminal contempt. They were previously convicted of civil contempt by the same court.

Greene's attorneys said later that James Meredith had never appealed to the University Commission and that they would carry their appeal to the higher court. They said that Ellis had violated Mize's own injunction against discrimination.

Meredith Case Extension

Greene's case is simply an extension of the Meredith case, the youth's attorneys explained. The opinion of the Fifth Circuit which mandated Judge Mize to order Meredith admitted spoke of class action. It ordered the University to admit Meredith and other members of his class—other Negroes—on the same basis as white students are admitted.

Seek Contempt Conviction

The motions filed by Greene's attorneys, William Kunstler and Clarence Jones of the Ghandi Society for Human Rights and William Higgs, also asked that Registrar Ellis be found in contempt for denying admission to Greene.

Greene was last refused admission Jan. 31 when he went to the Oxford campus to try to register. His application had been rejected in November.

Ellis testified that Greene was refused admission because he sought to transfer from a non-accredited school, Mississippi Vocational College.

Jones declared that "the program of MVC is controlled and

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Petition Asks Increase In Food Program For State's Delta Counties

The Welfare Committee of the Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations has announced that it will petition for an increased food commodity program and the renewal of commodities in Leflore County.

Committee Chairman Dave Dennis said that petitions will be circulated to residents of Leflore, Bolivar, Coahoma, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, and Quitman counties.

The request is addressed to

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BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

Editorial Page

Federal Discrimination Illegal

Helen O'Neal claims she was denied a National Defense Education loan for urging her fellow students at Jackson State College to stand up for their civil rights. When she reported this to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, a federal agent was soon sent from Washington to investigate.

A young woman—who asked that her name be withheld applied for a secretarial position at the Jackson Veterans Administration hospital. She had won awards for typing and stenography and is currently a college teacher. Nevertheless, she was given a run-around. The Civil Rights Commission was notified and her case is being investigated.

There are hundreds of other cases of discrimination against Negroes—in jobs and federal programs—which can be violations of the law, as in the cases of these young women.

It is illegal to discriminate against Negroes in federal programs. The NDEA loan program and the VA hospital are both financed by federal funds.

If you have been discriminated against in a job supported by federal funds—such as in the post office or in the state employment service. Or if you have suffered discrimination in any federal program—such as welfare or veteran's pensions—notify the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, Washington, D. C.

You can not gain your rights unless you tell when you have been wronged.

A Lesson In Democracy

The story about the Clarksdale meeting, which appears on Page 1, is a very significant one. It is not significant because of any particular thing that was done at the meeting—or any special decision that was made.

It is significant because almost 500 men and women got together to democratically decide the next step in their struggle for equality.

The Clarksdale mass meetings, which take place in different churches each Wednesday, symbolize the very opposite of the system the people of Clarksdale want to overturn.

They oppose a system which gives the power to rule men's lives to only a select few. As the Mississippi Labor Council has pointed out, Mississippi's strict poll tax and voter registration laws take the vote away from thousands of white people as well as denying it to Negroes. Only 25 per cent of the eligible voters of the state participated in the last election for governor.

More important, Mississippi has destroyed democracy by making people afraid to speak out for what they believe. The free speech and honest disagreement which is permitted in the Clarksdale mass meetings are two of the most crucial ingredients of democracy.

Some men seem to think that the masses of people don't have the ability to rule themselves and to make the decisions that affect their lives. They want to tell us what to do—"for our own good."

Mississippians have had enough of a few men telling them what they are permitted to do. Hundreds of people in Clarksdale and elsewhere have begun to fight actively for their rights. And they will not let only a few men make the decisions of their struggle; they will make those decisions themselves in the greatest tradition of democracy.

Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:

Under the industrial development program being carried on in the State of Mississippi a grievous harm is often being done to the working people of this State.

Some members of the Chamber of Commerce and some of the politicians who administer the program are guilty of victimizing our own people. They offer every inducement to any firm who will listen, (often without proper investigation of the past record of the firm), telling them of our favorable climate, efficient transportation, ample land and water, buildings and lands provided, tax exemptions—and an abundant supply of cheap labor!

Then if a new plant moves into the state they are encouraged, if not pressured, by some of the local business people to pay low wages! They are told that they should not upset the area wage patterns.

The true wealth of any land is its people. Degrade the people and you degrade everything. Nothing degrades people more than poverty!

We live in a great country and a great state. We are proud of our democratic traditions. We like to believe that we live in the land of opportunity. Many a young couple gazing proudly on their new-born son say to each other, "His opportunities are unlimited. He can grow up to be a great man, perhaps even President of the United States!"

In this country it is possible . . . but it is not probable.

Common sense will tell the average couple that even in this great land about all the child can reasonably expect is to grow up in a free land, be well fed and clothed, receive a good education, and go out into the world on his own.

When he is grown he has the right to expect employment, under decent working conditions, at a wage sufficient to support himself and his family on what we like to call "the American Standard of Living."

So we say to the members of the Chambers of Commerce, business men, and politicians of the State of Mississippi: We do not have cheap labor in Mississippi!

We do have an abundance of free men and women—hard working men and women who welcome the opportunity to give an honest day's work for an honest day's pay to any fair employer. Skilled people, and intelligent people anxious to learn any necessary skill. People who want cordial and harmonious relationships with their employer.

They are your friends, your neighbors, and your customers. If they prosper your business will prosper. If they do not prosper your business will suffer!

We need industrial development in this State. We welcome fair and legitimate employers. We believe that every employer has the right to make a profit on his investment. We believe in the capitalistic system as practiced by fair employers in this country. We believe in cordial and harmonious labor-management relations based on mutual recognition of the rights of both parties. We believe in law and order with equal rights under the law. . . .

James E. Stewart
2710 Delta Drive, Lot 2713
Jackson, Miss.

(Editor's Note: Unfortunately, this letter was too long to permit us to print it in its entirety.)

Henry, Johnson Criminal Cases May Arise From Rights Work

Although some criminal charges may appear to have nothing to do with civil rights, the US Civil Rights Commission believes that criminal prosecution has been used in Mississippi to persecute and attack civil rights leaders.

The cases of Dr. Aaron Henry and Rev. Thomas Johnson have already been investigated. The Commission is now investigating the recent case of civil rights attorney William Higgs.

Here is a resume of the Henry and Johnson cases:

Youth Charges Dr. Henry

Dr. Henry, President of the Mississippi Council of Federated Organizations, was arrested last March on charges of a white youth who claimed unnatural advances were made toward him.

The boy, 18-year-old Sterling Lee Elliott of Memphis, said that Henry picked him up when he was hitchhiking from Memphis to Cleveland.

At Store All Day

However, many witnesses have stated that Henry was at his Clarksdale drug store all day, except for a few minutes in the morning when he drove his wife home with the week's groceries. When he returned from that errand, he left his car at the Delta Burial wash rack for washing and servicing, and did not pick it up until he went home at 5:20.

Dr. Henry is head of the Clarksdale effort to register and pay poll taxes and is spearheading the boycott of downtown merchants. At the time of his arrest he was also campaign manager of Rev. Theodore Trammell, a Negro candidate for US Congress.

'Schemed Into It'

He charged that "the persons responsible for filing the charge against me have been schemed into doing it on the suggestion of County Prosecuting Attorney Thomas Pearson and Chief Ben Collins."

Elliott had said that he took down the license number of Dr. Henry's car after leaving it and complained to the sheriff of Bolivar County. Dr. Henry said that it was odd to be questioned by Coahoma County officials on a crime allegedly committed in Bolivar; except for Elliott and the Shelby police chief, all the witnesses were from Clarksdale.

Dr. Henry was fined \$500 and sentenced to six months in jail; he appealed this (bond \$1000); and on the reduced charge of

disorderly conduct was then found guilty, with a \$250 fine and 60 days in jail. The appeal on this conviction is now pending.

Another case against a Mississippi civil rights leader was successfully settled. Charges of perjury against Rev. Tom Johnson and his wife have been dropped by the Hinds County District Attorney.

Drops Charges

The Johnsons were charged with perjury after a Jackson justice of the peace dismissed the charges against a white neighbor they had accused of disturbing the peace.

The incident began on Halloween, when the Johnsons received a friendly call from a neighbor warning that their car would be overturned that night.

Rev. Johnson drove the car to the home of a friend at Tougaloo Southern Christian College.

Men Throw Objects

When he returned home, he saw a group of young men throwing garbage, stones and sticks against his house. They were standing in the yard of a neighbor who had reportedly bothered Johnson before because of his job as a missionary worker in Negro churches and his position on the State Advisory Committee to the US Civil Rights Commission.

Johnson noticed his neighbor sitting in a near-by car. He and his wife called the sheriff and swore out a peace warrant. Wade, the neighbor, was tried for breach of the peace; however, he was accompanied by friends who swore that he was not at home at the time of the incident.

Private Attorney Handles

Wade's lawyer swore out a perjury warrant against the Johnsons based on the same "alibi witnesses." District Attorney Bill Waller permitted a private attorney to handle the criminal suit, although this act is questionable under Mississippi law.

The Civil Rights Commission sent agents to look into the case. Investigations in the neighborhood corroborated Johnson's story.

A few weeks later, Waller resumed responsibility for the case and recommended that the charges be dropped. It was reported that many white people were outraged that the Johnsons were being submitted to this persecution.

Southern Democrats And Republicans Join To Preserve Senate Filibuster

A coalition of Southern Democrats and conservative Republicans has killed chances for any meaningful civil rights or social welfare legislation in the US Senate for the next two years.

Senators voted 53 to 42 to table (postpone indefinitely) a motion to end a 17 day debate on the filibuster rule.

Filibuster means to talk continuously — for days and days — in order to prevent the Senate from finally coming to a vote on a measure. Since a 2/3 vote is required to end debate, Senators who are less than a majority but more than 1/3 can prevent a measure they dislike from passing by "talking it to death."

Kennedy Wouldn't Help

Liberals hoped that the Senate would pass a rule allowing a majority, or at least 3/5, of

the Senators to end debate. However, President John Kennedy refused to give them his support, and Vice-President Lyndon Johnson made a crucial ruling that the rules of the Senate are "continuing."

Therefore, the Senators couldn't consider the rule about debate a new rule — to be passed by a majority vote like all Senate rules. Instead, they had to try to repeal a rule already on the books.

Vote of Miss. Senators

Senators Eastland and Stennis joined all the other Southern Democrats in voting against the liberal position. They remembered that much of the effectiveness of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960 was destroyed by compromise after Southern Senators talked against the bills for several days.

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.

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Green's Ole Miss...

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supervised by the identical state Board of Trustees that establishes admission requirement for admission to the University of Mississippi." He charged that the Board had set up a program incapable of ever being approved by the regional accrediting agency and had therefore deprived Greene and other Negroes of their civil rights under the 14th Amendment.

Greene's attorneys said that irreparable harm was being done to him by further delay because classes at the University began Feb. 2; on the other hand, they said, the University could not suffer if he was temporarily admitted pending further court action.

Greene first requested an application from Ole Miss in the fall of 1962; he mentioned in his letter that he had attended Broad Street High School, a Negro school in Greenwood.

Achievement Causes Rejection

Ellis declared that the application, received in late October, was rejected because of "the limited level of achievement indicated" by Greene's records in addition to his attendance at MVC. He said too that the application was "not properly completed."

In court Ellis testified that freshmen transfer students are required to have a "D" average; Greene had a 2.8, which is equal to C minus. Ellis also admitted that a rating of 18 on the American College Test, which Greene achieved, would indicate that a student is able to do college work.

Writes For Specifics

When Greene received the first refusal, he wrote to the Registrar asking him to be more specific about the irregularities in his application; Ellis replied that one of his recommendations was from a person who did not then live in Greenwood and another signer had forgotten to include Greenwood in his address. Greene secured two recommendations from new people, although the "non-resident" had known him all his life and had only recently moved to another Mississippi town.

When Ellis learned from Justice Department Attorney John Doar that Greene would seek to register Jan. 31, he sent

him a telegram which said, "You are not to appear at the University of Mississippi for registration. My letters dated December 10, 1962 and November 16, 1962 informed you that you are not eligible for admission."

Students Friendly

Greene did not receive the telegram before he left Jackson for Oxford and he arrived at the Lyceum building at 11:30 Thursday morning. He said that students were friendly and directed him to the Registrar's office.

Ellis refused to permit him to register, but told him that he would petition the Committee on Admissions; however, there was no assurance that they would get around to his appeal before registration ended.

Would Recommend Refusal

Ellis testified in Court that he would have recommended that the Committee refuse to admit Greene. He also admitted that he had discussed each of his letters to Greene with the University's attorney.

Greene told the Court that he wants to become an accountant and that no Mississippi Negro college provides the necessary courses; Ellis agreed that this was true. Greene's attorneys attempted to demonstrate as in the Fifth Circuit's Meredith opinion that Mississippi's policy of educational segregation is the crux of the matter.

No Whites Denied

No student had ever been denied transfer from a white state school because the are all accredited, testified Ellis. Jackson State College and Alcorn A & M became accredited in 1961, after the beginning of the Meredith case; they are the only accredited Negro state supported schools.

Have Different Standards

Ellis declared that the State Board of Trustees controls both Ole Miss and MVC but runs them under different standards. It "encourages schools to develop for their own differing clientele" with different standards and courses.

Judge Mize said that there was no need for an immediate ruling and charged Greene with creating his own emergency. He declined to sign an order officially denying Greene's motion for immediate admission on the evidence presented in affidavits. However, he did permit an appeal to be made on the court record.

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Road To Riot

This is the first article in a series called "The Oxford Disaster—Price of Defiance" by Jackson county Rep. Karl Wiesenburg of Pascagoula. The articles were first printed in the Pascagoula Chronicle as "a reasoned viewpoint around which may rally all Mississippians who are appalled at what is happening in their state. It can be the foundation for their credo." Rep. Wiesenburg is a well-known legal scholar and has fought courageously for labor and welfare in the Mississippi House of Representatives.

On Sept. 10, 1962 Justice Black, speaking for the Supreme Court of the United States, reinstated a federal court injunction ordering the immediate admission of James A. Meredith to the University of Mississippi.

That evening a series of conferences was held by Mississippi's Gov. Ross R. Barnett. He was advised by lawyers of highest repute that no further legal action was possible. The Meredith case, which had been in the courts since May 31, 1961, had been finally terminated. He was told that regardless of the personal opinions, feelings and convictions of native born Mississippi federal district judges, they would carry out the mandate of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The governor knew that he was faced with only two alternatives: compliance or defiance.

Background Counsels Compliance

Gov. Barnett's background counselled compliance. His religious convictions, legal training, and his duties and responsibilities as governor of the state of Mississippi called for maintenance of peace and order, respect for constituted authority and obedience to law.

On the other hand, his political career had been staked upon successfully maintaining segregation as Mississippi's primary policy. He had avidly sought and won the support of the powerful Citizens Councils. He had accepted their leaders into his confidence and as his trusted political advisors. His speeches reflected the official Citizens Councils position. Again and again he had cried "never, never, never" to the ever increasing threat of the integration of the public schools of his state.

Day Of Decision

This fateful day marked a day of decision for Mississippi. Had the governor urged compliance, had he said that although he disagreed with the order of the United States court, that the order would be obeyed, the tragedy of Oxford would not have taken place. The people of Mississippi would have followed his leadership.

Instead, pressured by advisors who continued to cry "never, never, never," he led his state down a path that inevitably led to riot, destruction and death.

Denounces Order

That night Gov. Barnett denounced Justice Black's order as "illegal," and said he

"would not allow Meredith's entrance at Ole Miss despite the order."

On Sept. 13th Gov. Barnett in a television address to the people of the state said, "No schools will be integrated while I am your governor." He submitted himself to the possibility of federal imprisonment and declared, "If there be any official who is not prepared to suffer imprisonment for this righteous cause, I ask him now to submit his resignation."

He invoked the doctrine of "interposition" and issued a proclamation placing the sovereignty of the state against the enforcement of the court's decree.

Words Supported

Gov. Barnett's words met with overwhelming public approval and support. Both of Mississippi's senators, five of six congressmen and nearly all elective and appointive state, district, county and municipal officials strongly endorsed his actions. The Mississippi legislature, meeting in special session, with only two dissenting votes, adopted resolutions commending him for his stand. Congratulatory resolutions, messages, telegrams, telephone calls and letters from throughout the South flooded the capital.

The voices urging caution were few. Congressman Frank Smith stated on Sept. 14, "Whether we like it or not the question of state vs. federal law was settled a hundred years ago." He further said that Barnett's acts "threaten the existence of our great university" and that "Barnett would lead the state down another blind alley."

Predicts Strife, Discord

One of two members of the Mississippi legislature who placed themselves on record as opposing the governor, predicted that the result would be "strife, discord and violence." The other member foresaw "inevitable bloodshed, insurrection and anarchy." The overwhelming roar of public approval drowned out these few futile protests. Indeed, anyone who dared to disagree with the governor was immediately tagged as an "integrationist."

In the days that followed, the people of Mississippi were treated to the spectacle of their "Ross" twice successfully confronting Meredith and the federal marshals and routing them. The enthusiasm of the people reached fever pitch.

In this mass hysteria reason and logic were abandoned. The leaders of nearly every community, bankers, lawyers, doctors, businessmen and workers

went on an orgy of rebellion against constituted authority and their federal government.

Brings Back Visions

The marshalling of the state highway patrol, sheriffs, peace officers and "deputies" on the campus of the University of Mississippi on September 26th to openly challenge the hated "feds" brought back visions of the War Between the States.

A state senator prepared a resolution for introduction in the state Senate calling for Mississippi to secede from the federal union. Another state senator was cheered by his colleagues when he called for "victory regardless of the cost in money, regardless of the cost in prestige, regardless of the cost in human life."

Blood Inevitable

In this atmosphere of hate, it was inevitable that blood would be shed. It simply became a question of whose blood—and when.

The sudden capitulation by Gov. Barnett on the afternoon of Sept. 30 shocked the state. Many refused to believe that he had surrendered. The sheriffs and peace officers standing by ready to oppose the federal marshals had no advance warning. Some organized hasty "posses" and sped to Oxford.

Organized By Officers

Among the grim "volunteers" who appeared in the City of Oxford that tragic night were men who had been organized, recruited and armed by peace officers in the state sworn to maintain peace and order. Others were no better than members of a lynch mob—and animated by the same spirit. Denied their prey, they stoned federal troops, including their own fellow Mississippians in the National Guard, and made the peaceful city of Oxford a scene of confusion, disorder and despair.

Two men met their death that night, scores were injured, property damage was high, and a great university was deluged in turn by federal marshals, a rioting mob and federal troops.

We had not won the victory but indeed we had paid a price "regardless of money, regardless of prestige and regardless of human life."

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Higgs Faces . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

finding work in Jackson; he also requested help in getting food and a place to stay.

Higgs said he thought the boy could do odd jobs, some needed house painting and repair on his car; the youth reportedly said he had worked in a garage. Higgs let him stay in the spare room; and, since Daywalt had no other clothes, bought him shoes and clothing.

Got Doctors' Care

The boy appeared to have fever, an infected eye and a cough, and Higgs took him to see a doctor and an eye specialist who prescribed medicine and glasses. At one time, when Higgs went out of town, he left Daywalt with his parents and asked his father to try to teach the boy to read; however, the youth did not respond to the efforts.

During another trip, when Higgs was working on the second Ole Miss integration case, he said that Daywalt failed to do any of the odd jobs he had assigned him and he decided that the boy would have to leave. He told him the next day, but the youth asked to stay for a few more days and Higgs said that he agreed.

The day after, Higgs said he left to visit his parents in Greenville, but refused Daywalt's request to leave the keys to his 1955 Ford behind. That afternoon, Jan. 28, the boy secured the aid of some neighbors

and a mechanic in starting the car.

Hit Another Car

At 8 p.m. he hit another car, failed to produce a license and was held for questioning by police. Higgs' maid called him to report that the boy had taken the car the day before and had not returned. He arrived home the next morning and went to the city police station to see about the car.

He told Assistant Chief Detective Bennett that the boy had not been authorized to use the car, but he did not know if he would prefer charges. Then Bennett said that the youth had made serious accusations about him. Higgs said that the youngster was brought in and related—with the detective's prompting—a detailed account of the charges.

Said Boy Feared Jail

Mrs. Syrella Van Buren, Higgs' maid, told the Free Press that police had brought the boy back to the house to pick up a cross he had left there. She asked him then, "Why did you do this to Mr. Higgs?" She said he replied, "They threatened to throw me back in my cell."

Contributing to the delinquency of a minor is a misdemeanor with a penalty of a \$500 fine or 6 months in jail.

Petition Asks . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, Governor Barnett and the Boards of Supervisors of the six counties.

Unemployment And Reprisals Widespread

Dennis stated that widespread hardship had been caused by the high rate of unemployment due to farm automation. In addition, families in Sunflower County have suffered economic reprisals when they attempted to register to vote. Leflore families denied any food surpluses have been particularly hard hit, he said.

**'Consciousness' Near Surface
Rev. Gray Says At Conference**

Rev. Duncan Grey, a leading moderate voice in the Oxford riots, said Tuesday that the use of religious arguments in Mississippi to justify segregation shows "an increasing sense of guilt" by the users.

He also urged the churches in Mississippi to take the "leadership in the battle against racial prejudice and discrimination," in a speech to 90 Mississippians of all races at the second meeting of the inter-racial Mississippi Council on Human Relations at Tougaloo Southern Christian College.

Guilt Below Surface

"No one would use religious arguments so often for a racial system supposedly taken for granted unless one had misgivings himself," said Rev. Mr. Grey, minister of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Oxford. "This sense of guilt has not become conscious, but it is not much below the surface."

Pointing to the stands taken recently by Protestant ministers, Rev. Grey said that the white church already finds itself somewhat in the lead against discrimination. This leadership has come "more by default" than active assertion, he pointed out.

'Christian Too'

As part of an increasing church role against discrimination, Rev. Mr. Grey urged the "layman to be a Christian too."

"People tell me that they expect me to be for integration because I am a clergyman, but they will be ardent segregationists until they die," he said.

Statements 'Not Enough'

He noted that national church statements against prejudice are "not enough to overcome the cultural traditions and mores" of the laymen. The church has been impotent also because "each man is considered to be the interpreter of his religion."

He also contended that nothing prohibits the churches from fighting prejudice and discrimination because "race and color

are not questions of theology." Theology or religion takes up nature, man, and God, he said.

"We can only say man is made in the image of God," he asserted. "Race is a human category, not a divine one."

Commends Negro Churches

Rev. Mr. Grey commended Negro churches in Mississippi for their united action in opposing racial discrimination and prejudice.

Re-Formed Last May

The Human Relations Council headed by Tougaloo President A. D. Beittel, was re-formed last May after a period of inactivity. Its purpose, as formally adopted, is "to work toward understanding and better relations between White and Negro races in the state and for social justice within Judeo-Christian concepts, based on the belief that all men are of equal worth in the sight of God."

Every area of the state is represented on the council.

Nearly 500 . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

taxes for another person just as anyone may send another person to pay his property tax."

Day In Court

Dr. Henry declared, "If we are wrong, we apologize, but from where we sit, now, we feel we are being discriminated against and will seek our day in court."

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(Continued from Page 1)

planted up to 20 per cent more than present rigid acreage allotments. These allotments were originally voted by Congress because there was too much cotton on the market. This caused rock-bottom prices for cotton and little income for farmers.

Mechanics To Congress

President Kennedy also recommended an equalization payment to make cotton available to domestic users at the lower prices charged foreign buyers. He left the mechanics of making this payment to Congress.

Under the old program a government support system made cotton available to foreign mills much more cheaply than to American mills. This made the U. S. market for cotton decline. The President therefore tried to solve the problem.

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