

Say Federal Money Supports Job Bias

Moss Point laborer James Goode told the Civil Rights State Advisory Committee last week that he was fired for drinking out of the "white side" of the water fountain at Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation.

Goode said that a foreman, Simpson, spotted him drinking at the side reserved to whites and called his supervisor. Goode was fired for "unsatisfactory service" in an order signed by Simpson.

However, Goode testified that Simpson later told him that he didn't know anything about the order. He declared, too, that his supervisor said that his work had been fine.

Goode sent a complaint to the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, but received a reply that

the company was justified in firing him because he had not completed his probation period.

Goode said that it wasn't fair for the government to refuse to aid him after he had taken advantage of rights it said he had. He worked less than the 30 days probation on this job, but had worked for Ingalls 7 months before being layed off some time before.

The Committee also heard
(Continued on Page 4)

Poor Education Linked To Poor Paying Job

A Biloxi high school student told the State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission that education for Negroes was inferior and failed to prepare young people for good jobs. James Louis Black is a student at Nichols High School; his father is a chef at Keesler Air Force Base.

School Training Different

Black, 18 years old, said that the only vocational education courses at Nichols are brick-laying and carpentry, the lowest paid construction jobs, while white high schools offer electronics, auto mechanics and pipe fitting.

Although Keesler, which is supported by federal funds employs people with electronic training, Negroes can't work there because of their lack of training.

Brainwashed

There are no physics, trigonometry or advanced algebra courses offered at Nichols. "The libraries like the rest of the school—brainwashed," Black said.

Only 5 out of 30 students at Nichols continue their education after high school, the youth said. Although Biloxi whites attend a junior college 45 miles away, Negroes who wish more education must travel 200 miles to Jackson State College.

Power Companies Hit Federal Anti-Bias Rule

Mississippi's power companies and the state officials chosen to regulate them are reported standing together against federal attempts to end discrimination by the companies.

The Departments of Interior and Agriculture and the Federal Power Commission are now requiring non-discrimination clauses in intra-state (within the state) and inter-state (between different states) contracts.

Jackson, Gulfport Companies
The three state Public Service Commissioners met with attorneys for the Mississippi Power & Light Company of Jackson and the Mississippi Power Company of Gulfport.

The Commission Chairman said that the action was "a vicious attempt by the government to take control of state regulatory activities." He said that the state commission would prepare a resolution condemning the federal requirements.

COMMENTS

By Charles Butts

Recently I bought a new (second-hand) car for which I had to buy a license tag. For this handsome blue and white plate (which ought to have been a gold plate) I had to shell out \$43.42.

When friends in other states found this out, they were utterly amazed. They pay \$9 and \$10 for licenses for larger and newer automobiles. Why?

This is only one of many examples of how the people of Mississippi, everybody, the well-heeled and not-so-well-heeled, pay equally for the maintenance of the state.

In most other states, the state raises its money in such

a manner that those most capable of paying carry most of the load, while those people who have a hard time meeting their own bills do not pay as much of the state's bills.

Another little item that astounded friends in other states was the 4% sales tax. Few states have a tax that high, but that is not all: not only does Mississippi have the high tax, it applies it to everything—including common necessities like food.

Since everyone has to have food, regardless of income, those people with very low incomes pay as much to the state
(Continued on Page 3)

Sharecroppers Tell Of Poverty In Delta

Free Press Now Only \$1 Per Year

The Mississippi FREE PRESS now has a new subscription rate for citizens of Mississippi. Now a copy will be sent each week, (that is 52 copies in all) for only one dollar.

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Greg Feeds Miss.; Gets Fed By Jack

Famed comedian Dick Gregory arrived in Greenwood Monday with 14,000 pounds of food for needy sharecroppers and farm workers in Leflore and Sunflower counties. He said that he planned to return with 60,000 more pounds of supplies for Negroes in other counties including Marshall, Tallahatchie, Quitman, Bolivar, Washington, Madison and Holmes.

The emergency food drive was begun in Chicago after people there learned that 22,000 people had been dropped from federal surplus commodities in Leflore. They were also concerned about Negroes dropped from the rolls in Sunflower and other counties; applicants for aid must be recommended by their previous employers.

Labor, Church Support

Labor, political, religious and civil rights leaders joined to
(Continued on Page 3)

Kennard In Hospital; Petition Called 'Moor'

The Mississippi Supreme Court has overruled a petition to transfer Clyde Kennard from Parchman Penitentiary to the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The Court said that the petition was "moot" — it didn't have any real meaning—because Kennard was already released from prison and in a hospital.

Kennard is in Billings Memorial Hospital in Chicago undergoing tests for cancer.

Children Don't Go To School Because They Have No Shoes

'Lot Of Dragging Feet' U.S. Unwilling To Know?

"There's a whole lot of dragging feet," charged Dr. Aaron Henry last week. Henry criticized the U. S. Civil Rights Commission for postponing official hearings in Mississippi for the third or fourth time.

A Commission attorney read a letter from Attorney General Robert Kennedy explaining that the federal agency might be accused of trying to prejudice the jury which will hear the Barnett and Johnson contempt cases if it holds hearings in the state.

Attacks Robert Kennedy

Henry declared, "The Attorney General negates the civil rights of 900,000 Negroes to the possibility that one man—Governor Barnett—will be offended."

Although the State Advisory Committee may continue to investigate the denial of civil rights, only the national commission has the power to subpoena witnesses and require them to testify. Thus, the Advisory Committee cannot get information from unfriendly witnesses.

No Mississippi Hearings

Although the Commission was founded 6 years ago in 1957 it has never held hearings in Mississippi. Henry suggested that the nation might not really want to know the facts about civil rights in Mississippi.

\$400 Million Is Set For Miss. Rocket Site

About \$400 million in federal money will be spent in Mississippi for the construction of a rocket testing site.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration will spend an initial \$25 million to begin work on the project in Hancock and Pearl River counties.

The federal project will provide jobs for large numbers of skilled and unskilled workers.

Illegal To Discriminate

It is against U. S. law to discriminate in hiring workers for the construction of this base. Anyone who applies for a job on the project and is refused because of race should complain to the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, both in Washington, D. C.

The Mississippi State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights last week heard reports of the poverty of rural workers, discrimination on federally supported employment and the inferior education provided for Negroes.

The U. S. Civil Rights Commission was set up in 1957 to investigate discrimination and segregation throughout the country. Each state has an advisory committee to conduct hearings and give information to the national commission. The advisory committee is composed of Negro and white citizens who live in the state and are concerned about the inequality that exists.

Citizens of both races from all parts of Mississippi presented their complaints to the committee Wednesday, February 6, at the federal building in Jackson. The meeting was public and all citizens were invited to testify.

Problems Of Farm Workers

A large part of the hearing was spent talking about the problems of Negro sharecroppers and farm workers. A group of Greenwood women told the committee that they could not send their children to school because they didn't have shoes for them to wear.

This is possible because Mississippi is the only state in the nation which does not require all children to attend school. After the Supreme Court de-
(Continued on Page 4)

3 Judges To Hear Greene In Atlanta

The U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Friday set a hearing for charges by Dewey Greene that he was denied admission to the University of Mississippi because of race. A panel of three Circuit Court judges will hear the case in Atlanta, February 16.

Greene is seeking an immediate order to permit him to enter the University at once, although he has agreed to postpone registration until his case can be heard by the appeals court.

He has also asked that Registrar Robert Ellis be found in contempt of the court order which told him to end discrimination against Meredith and all other Mississippi Negroes.

WE STAND FOR . . .

GOOD GOVERNMENT
HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS
BETTER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
SOCIAL JUSTICE . . . IN MISSISSIPPI

Editorial Page

Law Missing

Once again, our fair state is outstanding—extraordinary. And as is often the case, the thing that sets Mississippi apart from the rest of the nation is not something for which one can be proud.

We are speaking of the fact that we are the only state in the nation that does not have a compulsory school attendance law. Every other state has such a law, which, in most cases, requires each young person to attend school until he is sixteen.

Why are we without this law? It was repealed shortly after the 1954 Supreme Court desegregation decision and apparently has something to do with race. But we do not see the relationship.

We do know, however, that the lack of this law permits several ugly things to appear. The same things that occurred across the country before the law was enacted in other states.

The absence of the law permits parents to keep their children out of school much of the time. This allows the state to hide the fact that it is riddled with poverty.

Children who do not have adequate shoes, clothes, and lunch money just do not go to school. Also, landowners can work the children during school time. Children are put upon to do work in order to try to earn money to help make ends meet at home.

Obviously the state has responsibility to see that its children get an education regardless of the economic condition into which the child is born.

Mississippi, rather than take that responsibility, has repealed a law and allowed poverty stricken parents the easy opportunity to be irresponsible (and the parents share in the irresponsibility, too).

The law should be re-enacted and ENFORCED. If this uncovers an ugly situation, that situation must be corrected not just covered up.

All children must be given an equal opportunity to get an education without regard to their economic backgrounds. That is fundamental to our democracy.

\$400 Million Program Brings Jobs -- No Place For Bias

An article elsewhere in this paper states, the federal government will be spending \$400 million to build a rocket testing site here in Mississippi.

Such a federal project is a great boon to the state's weakling economy. It is another example of how the state is dependent on the federal government.

The benefits of this great sum of money will be derived over and over again; many people will have money to spend here in Mississippi to provide money for other people who in turn, will spend it to provide money for still others.

The exciting thing about a project such as this is that it brings a lot of money here and it makes jobs and money available for so many people.

The money will first enter the state through the contractors who will do the actual work for the government.

It is of the greatest importance that these contracts be granted in a way that our working people, regardless of color, be permitted to reap the advantages (namely jobs) of this federal money.

The Americans who coughed up this money had to do it without regard to what color they were; therefore, the jobs that are created by this federal money must be granted to workers without consideration of their race.

'Sorry, We're Still Too Busy'



Amendment Adds To City Power; Workers Can Have More Influence

For many years the legislature of Mississippi has been "too busy" to think about the problems of the working people of this state. The reason for this is that most of the people have little or no control over the policies and men who run our government.

Of course, many Negro citizens are afraid to vote and take part in politics. Others have tried to register but have been refused by their county clerks.

Minority Has Power

But there has been another factor which gives more power to a minority which also happens to be the most conservative element in the state. This is the unfair distribution (apportionment) of state senators and representatives.

When the Mississippi constitution was adopted in 1890, 82 counties were set up. Smaller counties shared one of the 52 senators and larger counties had their own; the 122 representatives were divided among the counties, with larger counties getting more than one.

As the years went on, people began to move from the rural areas into the cities. But the counties still had the same number of senators and representatives. The result was that a vote in a small county like Isaquena was worth about 20 times as much as a vote in Hinds County.

This happened because 3,500 people in Isaquena elected one man to the House of Representatives and 187,000 in Hinds County only chose three and one-half men.

The rural areas are usually more conservative than the cities. This is true in Mississippi for a number of reasons.

Landowners In Control

First, the rich landowners generally control politics in rural areas; farm workers and sharecroppers are discouraged by poll taxes, difficult registration procedures and, in the case of Negroes, by threats. Because of poor education, farm laborers are unable to make their needs heard, and the lack of an

organized working force makes their influence very small.

Plantation owners are able to prevent the state government from taking any steps to improve the living standards of the people. All they are interested in is keeping taxes and wages low.

However, although city businessmen are also against high wages and taxes for welfare measures, their own interests make them favor many things

that are good for the people.

Need Skilled Workers

Without skilled workers, industry cannot exist. Without law and order, national companies will not build factories in Mississippi. Therefore, many businessmen are concerned with the improvement of education. And some have spoken out against the violence at Oxford.

But the most important factor that makes cities more liberal than rural areas is something that is not too well developed in Mississippi—trade unions. When workers organize to protect their economic rights on the job, they often find out that a union is not enough. They, and other union members, must become active in politics in order to protect their union gains.

Dues Dodgers Allowed

For example, even if a union wins an election in a plant and represents all the members, a state law says that all members don't have to pay dues. Dues dodgers get all the benefits of the union—all wage increases—but do not have to help support the union. This law is called the "Right-to-Work" law, but it is really an anti-union law and should be repealed.

The amendment to reapportion the state legislature was approved overwhelmingly, by about 90,600 to 14,000. (Only 30% of the qualified voters went to the polls.) Although it is still not completely fair, the new seating plan gives more voice to counties with large populations and takes votes away from rural areas.

Because of the change, there will be many openings for new senators and representatives in the state legislature. It is up to you—the working people of Mississippi—to make sure that the new legislators represent your interests.

You have the right to run for state office and get your neighbors to support you. Don't let the Mississippi legislature stay "too busy" to be concerned about your welfare. Politics is your business.

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Editor Charles L. Butts
Managing Editor Lucille Komisar

Barnett, Johnson Motions Denied By 5th Circuit; Gov. Claims Immunity

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals is considering a request by Ross Barnett and Paul Johnson to dismiss contempt proceedings against them. The two also asked that they be tried by a Mississippi jury if charges aren't dropped.

Lawyers for the two men charged that the court order against interfering with James Meredith's registration was not valid. They also claimed that the charges were not prepared properly and that the court of appeals does not have jurisdiction to try the case.

Motions Denied In '62

However, the Court denied similar motions which were made in the fall when Barnett and Johnson were convicted of civil contempt.

The Court asked how a jury could be selected since the jurisdiction of the court covers several states; in addition, there is no legal provision for a circuit court jury. Assistant Attorney General Clark said that the jury should be chosen from the place where the contempt action was committed.

Is Barnett Mississippi?

Last Friday the Court denied a request by the State of Mississippi to be admitted to the case as a defendant along with Barnett and Johnson. Judge Griffin Eell asked, "Are you claiming that Barnett is Mississippi?" Attorney Garner Green replied, "Exactly."

The State can, however, be a friend of the court (*amicus curiae*) on behalf of the two officials.

In his argument, Clark said that Meredith had never been lawfully admitted to the University. He said that Barnett would have violated the state constitution by admitting him.

Clark charged that Meredith was a "trespasser" and said Barnett and Johnson would have been "traitors and impeachable" if they hadn't tried to bar him.

Greg Feeds . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

support the effort which was sponsored by the Chicago Friends of SNCC. Ralph Helstein, President of the United Packinghouse Workers, Alderman Deon DesPres, and 600 clergymen lent their support to the effort.

Gregory said, "As soon as the American people find out what's going on down here, they will wake up over night. Mississippi is part of the union, only they don't know it yet."

Tuesday Gregory was a guest of President Kennedy at a Lincoln Day dinner in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

A spokesman for the drive said that flour, cornmeal, canned goods and other staples are needed.

Comments . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

as do those people with much higher incomes.

This is all fine and dandy if you happen to be in that higher income bracket. It happens that I am not. I am disturbed that I have to pay as much to maintain the state as another who may be making 4, 8, 10, or 20 times more than I.

Who decided that the state revenue be collected in this way? Why the men who we elect to the legislature, of course. All taxes are determined by the men who we select to represent us.

Perhaps it would be good to find out how your representative stands on this subject. Who does he think should foot the state's bills, you or the fellow who has the higher income?

Of course finding out how your representative stands will not mean much unless you are registered to vote. Only with that ballot will you be able to support him if he is right and defeat him if he is wrong.

Voting is more than just a patriotic ritual, isn't it? You could have a little better car if the license did not cost so much, huh? Or buy more to eat with the money you now have to give for the big tax on food.

An Oath Violated?

This is the major part of the second in a five part series, "The Oxford Disaster - Price of Defiance," by Jackson County Representative Karl Wiesenbergh. Pascagoula Chronicle Editor Ira Harkey wrote, in the foreword to the pamphlet of the articles, that they are "a major contribution to the welfare of Mississippi and form a reasoned viewpoint around which may rally all Mississippians who are appalled at what is happening in their state."

Many of Mississippi's lawyers, jurists, historians, businessmen and politicians have circulated propaganda purporting to give the people of the state and the nation the "facts" about the Oxford disaster.

Typical of these are articles by a former president of the American Bar Association, by the president of the University of Southern Mississippi and a booklet published by the Mississippi State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Seek To Justify

These documents are remarkable in that they seek to justify the conduct of Gov. Barnett as being lawful under the Constitution of the United States.

They ignored the question of whether or not Gov. Barnett's actions were illegal under the Constitution of the State of Mississippi!

These sections of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi are applicable:

U. S. Is First

Section 7 provides "nor shall any law be passed in derogation of the paramount allegiance of the citizens of this state to the government of the United States."

Section 8 makes United States citizenship paramount to citizenship of Mississippi.

Section 268 provides that the governor shall "solemnly swear that he will faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and obey the laws thereof."

Section 123 provides "the governor shall see that the laws are faithfully effected."

Trustees Control U.

Section 213A places the University of Mississippi "under the management and control of a Board of Trustees to be known as the Board of Trustees of state institutions of higher learning . . .

"Such Board shall perform the high and honorable duties thereof to the greatest advantage of the people of the State of such educational institutions, uninfluenced by any political considerations."

Section 217 of the Constitution provides that "the governor shall have power to call forth the militia to execute the laws, repel invasion and to suppress riots and insurrections."

Gov. Must Enforce Laws

. . . The Mississippi Supreme Court, speaking of the powers

of the governor of our state, said: "whatever the governor does in the execution of the laws . . . must be . . . in strict subordination to the general law of the land."

. . . The Mississippi Supreme Court said: . . .

Constitution Is Supreme

This Constitution, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, and treaties made under the authority of the United States, are declared to be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding . . .

State Officials Bound

"The Constitution of the United States provides that the senators and representatives in Congress, and the members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support that Constitution."

"We cannot think that so important a provision in the paramount law of the land was intended to be merely directory, and not absolutely necessary to be complied with."

The law in Mississippi may be summarized thusly:

a) The Constitution of the state of Mississippi expressly recognizes that the federal law is the paramount law of the land.

b) The Constitution of the state of Mississippi vests full management and control of the affairs of the University of Mississippi in the Board of Trustees for the Institutions of Higher Learning. This includes the question of the admission of students to the university.

Gov. Has No Authority

c) Under the Constitution of the state of Mississippi the governor of the state has no authority or control of the internal affairs of the University of Mississippi, nor can he admit or deny admission to any student.

d) Under the Constitution of the state of Mississippi it is the duty of the governor as the chief executive of the state to see that law and order is maintained in the state, and to suppress riots and insurrections.

e) Under the Constitution of

the state of Mississippi the governor cannot determine what the law is, or what laws should be obeyed, but he is bound under his oath of office to enforce the laws of the land as judicially determined by the courts of the land.

State Can't Interfere

f) Under the Constitution of the state of Mississippi neither the state legislature nor the state courts can interfere with the enforcement of the final decrees of the federal courts of the United States.

g) The Mississippi Supreme Court, construing the Constitution of the state of Mississippi and the Constitution of the United States, has held that the interpretations of the Constitution of the United States by the Supreme Court of the United States are binding upon all state officials and constitute "the law of the land."

Gov. Barnett clearly acknowledged that he had no statutory or constitutional authority to interfere with the admission of James Meredith to the university.

In a letter dated October 25, 1962, he wrote the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools as follows: "... all statutory and constitutional authority for operating the state institutions of higher learning in Mississippi is in the hands of the duly appointed members of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning."

"It is not my wish or purpose to accept or assume any of these prerogatives."

Barnett Caused Tragedy

If Gov. Barnett had admitted that this was the law on September 10th instead of waiting until October 25th, the tragedy at Oxford would not have taken place.

Did he violate his solemn oath of office to "faithfully support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and obey the laws thereof?"

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Clarke County Registrar Told To Stop Delays In Voter Registration

A federal district court has told Clarke County Registrar A. L. Ramsey to stop refusing, delaying or discouraging Negro voter applicants. However, Judge Harold Cox declared that "no pattern or practice" of discrimination was proved by the Justice Department.

Registered Illiterate Whites

In a ruling February 6, Cox also told Ramsey to stop registering people who are illiterate or who do not appear to sign the registration book. Government testimony had brought out that whites have been registered without appearing at the clerk's office or taking literacy tests.

Ramsey was ordered to select a number of sections of the state constitution and write the numbers on slips of paper. Applicants for registration would draw papers from a container and interpret the section picked.

Told To Be Fair

Cox said that the Registrar was to "fairly and properly and impartially administer" the tests and grade them "by the same standard for all such applicants . . . without distinction or discrimination as to race or color."

The Judge ruled that the state of Mississippi was not involved in any discrimination and dismissed the federal government's charge against the state.

In his opinion, Cox said, "The registrar had no scheme or systematic procedure to deprive Negro citizens as such of the right to register . . . The registrar apparently had little

Say Federal . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

testimony from Lamar Turnipseed whose story was printed in the Free Press last November. Turnipseed was fired 18 hours after he applied for apprenticeship training as a mechanic at Ingalls. He had worked there 9 years as a garage helper.

Turnipseed complained to the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity 9 months ago, but there has been no action.

The State Employment Service has not recommended him for any jobs since that time. Turnipseed said that the Gulf coast is a center of industry and he sought work as a laborer or truck driver. However, there has been a great deal of publicity about his complaint and he is also chairman of the voter registration drive in Pascagoula.

Campbell Teacher's Complaint

The President's Committee is now considering a complaint filed by a Campbell College teacher who applied for a job at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Jackson.

Miss L'Dina Robinson told the State Advisory Committee that the VA personnel director

knowledge of his official duties.

"He did deliberately and improperly deny adult Negro citizens who were residents of the county the right to take the legal test for registration. He did nothing to encourage or aid or assist Negroes in registration as he did white people, yet no pattern or practice of the registrar is established. . . ."

Cox said that about 1,500 whites had been registered illegally and declared that some had been put on the books without Ramsey's knowledge. He said that 1,289 had registered by proxy.

The U. S. Judge said that less than a dozen Negroes had tried to register.

told her that there were no secretary or stenographer jobs available, but advised her that there were many positions open for her in Washington, D. C.

Miss Robinson is a cum laude graduate of Dillard University of New Orleans and is Chairman of the Business Department of Campbell College. She teaches shorthand, typing, accounting, business law, secretarial procedures and business machines. She has received several awards for typing and shorthand.

Not Given Usual Form

At the hospital Miss Robinson was not asked to fill out the usual form 52 job application. The personnel director told her that there might be an opening for a clerk-typist—a job which pays the minimum salary. He gave her a form to request the date for examination in Vicksburg and this was sent at the end of October.

There has been no reply to this request. One of the members of the Advisory Commission said she knew that tests were given every few weeks in Jackson.

Dr. Aaron Henry testified that the only Negroes employed in the federal building where the hearing was held were hired to sweep the floors and keep the walls clean, except for a few letter carriers.

Henry told the Free Press that Negroes have a "tough time drawing unemployment compensation and job placement through the Employment Bureau." He charged that federal money is used in hospitals, post offices, weather bureaus, schools, federal lands for recreation and public use, rural electric and telephone systems—and all discriminate against Negroes.

"Do we realize that there is not a single Negro in the National Guard in Mississippi," he said.

Little Results

NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers reported that little or no results had been gotten from complaints against discrimination by the B.V.D. Corporation and the International Paper Company, both in Pascagoula.

The General Electric plant in Jackson doesn't employ Negroes in any capacity, he charged. The Jackson Vickers plant, which makes hydraulic equipment for airplanes, is said to bar Negroes in its apprenticeship program, but restricts them to work as janitors.

Sharecroppers . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

segregation decision in 1954, the Mississippi legislature repealed the state's compulsory education law.

Mrs. Nancy West Brand of Greenwood told the committee that four of her nine children work in the fields, chopping and picking cotton; the oldest is 17. Their income for 1962 totaled \$200.

Can't Go To School

Eight children are school age, but they do not attend school all the time. In spring, summer and fall, the four eldest work and this "interferes with school," said Mrs. Brand. "In the fall, the big ones stay home to support the family," she said.

School lunches are financed by the federal government, but they cost 25¢—too much for Mrs. Brand's children. She received federal commodities last year, but Leflore County officials cut off the program this year. If the children go to school, they don't eat lunch.

When Mrs. Brand, who supports the entire family, recently fell ill, she applied to the local welfare department. When she was unsuccessful, she wrote several letters to the Welfare Department in Washington, D. C.

In Debt

Mrs. Ella Meeks lives on the Fort Loring Plantation with her husband and 11 children, ranging in age from 8 months to 18 years old. In 1962 Mr. and Mrs. Meeks and 4 children worked hoeing and picking cotton to earn a total of \$300.

There are 7 school age children in the family, but they go "mighty seldom." They don't have adequate clothes or shoes. The Meeks got federal surplus commodities for 3 months last year, but get no aid now that the program is ended.

Hits U. S. Govt.

Clarksdale druggist Dr. Aaron Henry charged that "the U. S. government takes the position that Mississippi has been poor a long time and there's no need to get so excited now." He pointed out that even in

counties where the commodity program was still in existence, workers must be recommended by their previous employers in order to get food. He suggested the beginning of a federal food stamp program like the one in operation in West Virginia.

The increased use of mechanical cotton pickers and chemical weed controls is cutting out thousands of Negro jobs, Henry explained. Automation—the use of mechanical equipment—can cut the work force by 80% he said.

Automation Used To Retaliate

"Mechanization is further along where efforts are being made toward voting and school desegregation," he charged. "Automation is being used as a vengeance retaliatory weapon against the freedom struggle."

This year, the crops were harvested 3 months earlier than usual. Workers are generally employed through January; this year they were finished in November, Henry stated.

No Leflore Officials

Although the State Advisory Committee invited Leflore County officials to give their reasons for stopping the commodity program, none appeared. Civil Rights Commission agents who interviewed Leflore white said that the excuses for cutting off the food ranged from "Leflore is a wealthy county; there is no real need" to charges of "creeping socialism."

The Commission men also found opposition among store keepers (all members of the Citizens Council) who feared that their profits would be reduced. Planters opposed the new federal regulations that would permit the federal government to inspect the records of a plantation to check the wages of workers who request aid.

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