

POVERTY FUNDS IN N.E. MISSISSIPPI HEADED  
BY SEGREGATIONIST LAWMAKER

CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI - \$700,000 in federal funds for a five-county area will be administered by a State Senator who once advocated using federal money to segregate housing and schools.

The grant - announced November 24 by President Johnson and Sergeant Shriver - was given to the Corinth Urban Renewal Agency, and, according to Corinth Mayor John Mercier, will be used to up-grade education in the area and thus up- grade the area's economic resources. The funds will be used in an area including Alcorn, Tishomingo, Prentiss, Union and Tippah Counties.

State Senator J. P. Dean of Corinth has been named head of the five-county project. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee said Corinth is one of four Mississippi cities still participating in the Federal Urban Renewal Program after the state legislature cut off renewal funds, fearing integrated housing would result. Senator Dean, in state senate debates on the fund cut-off in February, 1964, advocated using the federal money to maintain housing and school segregation.

Dean said on February 14, 1964 that Corinth would use Urban Renewal funds to relocate "82 Negro families who live within a block of our white high school and solve a potentially dangerous situation."

The grants which Senator Dean will be administering, SNCC said, will flow through governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as non-profit organizations such as schools and churches. SNCC Field Secretary Donald White, who directs activity in the 1st Congressional District for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), said none of the school systems or churches in the entire five county area are desegregated.

White said federal funds could be better used to repair five antiquated school busses used to transport 260 Negro children to their segregated schools. The SNCC worker said a Negro parent's boycott of the school busses forced an admission from the Alcorn County School Board that new busses were needed, but could not be purchased because the board faced two outstanding transportation notes totaling \$16,000. 0 White wondered "how the county can owe \$16,000 on busses they admit are no good."