

Civil Rights Commission Probes Voting Rights Denial of Negro

By United Press International
The Civil Rights Commission bucked a solid front of local resistance Monday in an effort to determine whether Negroes have been wrongfully denied voting rights in Alabama.

Records of voter registration were impounded in all but one of the counties figuring in the probe — and officials in that county threatened to withhold their books from federal agents. One circuit court judge threatened to throw agents in jail if they tried to seize records.

It appeared the investigation, scheduled to last two or three days, would provide a test of just how far the commission can go in tracking down complaints of civil rights violations.

Receive Numerous Complaints
The commission acted after receiving numerous complaints from Alabama that registration methods discriminated against Negroes. Most of the charges were made by residents of Macon county, where Negroes outnumber whites and where two

commission investigators were denied access to registration books.

An attack on segregation at the college level goes on trial in federal court at Atlanta today. If three Negroes are upheld in efforts to enter a state-supported college in Atlanta, state law would cut off funds to it and to all other units in Georgia's higher education system.

Public school segregation also is under legal fire in Atlanta, and a decision in that suit is expected before the summer is out. Resistance statutes provide for closing public schools on a district-wide basis should one unit become subject to desegregation orders.

Expect Dynamiting Decision
There were these other developments on the race-relations scene:

—In Atlanta, a jury was expected to rule in the trial of George Bright, who charged with dynamiting a Jewish temple. Conviction could result in the death sentence.

—Two "moderate" candi-

dates who lost to segregationists in the Little Rock, Ark., school board election Saturday said they would challenge the results. One segregationist who lost indicated he may contest the vote. Half of the six board seats went to "moderates" and half to citizens council-sponsored candidates.

—A state committee appointed to advise the federal Civil Rights Commission announced plans for a meeting in January to study Negro voting in Florida. It also is to take up possible discrimination in the fields of housing and education.

56 Accidents, 7 Deaths Occur in State as Result Of Firearm Carelessness

Portland—Despite the excellent reports from all sections of the state on the results of this year's Red Hat program, hunters paid little heed to one of the pledges—to be careful with firearms.

According to reports received by the game commission, hunter conduct in the field was highly commendable during this year's hunting seasons. Ranchers and landowners spoke highly of the progress made in hunter-landowner cooperation. Vandalism reports were at an all-time low, and even the incidence of trespass was much below normal. Only a few reports of livestock being shot were received. The excellent reports indicate that great strides have been made in hunter conduct afield.

Although some hunters were careless with fires, the fire record was generally good considering that one of the driest hunting seasons in years was experienced.

But when it came to being careless with firearms, the commission said that hunters this year really let their hair down, with 56 gun accidents reported, seven of which were fatal. If the number of gun accidents continues at the present rate, the number of accidents will reach an all-time high in the record book.

The commission said that it is alarming to note the great number of accidents in which juveniles have been involved, with the lives of 23 boys in Oregon endangered by firearms—two of these youngsters dead as a result of firearms hunting accidents. This is a tremendous number of gun accidents caused by a small minority of hunters.

The records show that so far during 1958, 23 gun accidents occurred where the

shooter's age was 19 years or under. Of this number, 12 boys shot themselves, while the remaining 11 either shot their hunting companions or some other hunter. In one instance, a young hunter wounded both of his hunting companions with a single shot.

In addition to the 12 boys who shot themselves, eight more boys were victims of juvenile hunters, while three juveniles were victims of adult hunters. Four adult hunters were casualties from juvenile guns.

Four Juvenile Caused
Of the seven deaths reported so far this year, four were juvenile caused. Two of the deaths were boys of 14 and 15 years of age, one who shot himself when he grasped the rifle by the muzzle and attempted to turn over a broken shovel with the butt, while the other died instantly from a 30-30 bullet fired by his 14-year-old companion at a distance of less than three yards. The two adult deaths fell into the "mistaken for game" category with juvenile hunters behind the guns.

The records show that almost all of these accidents were caused by juveniles from 10 to 17 years of age. The commission said that although these youngsters are still dependent upon adult supervision while in the field, adult hunters were present in only two cases.

The game commission reminds all hunters that gun hunting accidents don't just happen—they are caused by carelessness or just plain ignorance. Hunting and shooting are two of the safest and most enjoyable sports in America today, but they will remain so only as long as the shooter observes proper gun handling precautions. It's not the gun, but the man behind the gun-

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