

Mississippi Segregation Described By Northerner

Editor's Note: Nineteen New England newspapermen visited Mississippi last week to view "the true picture" there and report on it. The trip was sponsored by the State Sovereignty Commission, an organization dedicated to preserving Mississippi's segregated way of life. This account of the visit was written by the publisher of the Milford, N.H., Cabine and Wilton Journal.

By WILLIAM B. ROTCH
Written For United Press
Segregation of the races may be an established way of life in the Deep South but when a New Hampshire Yankee sees it for the first time the impact is rough and disturbing.

possible to return from such a trip without vivid impressions. Contrary to a general impression the trip was never described to us as an opportunity to study segregation. Rather it was an offer to show the "true picture" of Mississippi, to allow a group of grass-roots newsmen a glimpse of a fast-growing section of the country, its accomplishments and its problems. The result was a week of sight-seeing and of serious discussions with business leaders and officials in widely separated parts of the state. No summary of the trip should be limited to a discussion of the race issue, yet no summary should ignore it. Segregation became a sort of undertone of the entire trip. It crept into every conversation. It always seemed to smoulder close to the surface. Some people can ignore an issue

of this sort. To me it was sickening and depressing. Only the race issue marred the trip. It was always there, always cropping out in little snatches of conversation. Mississippi has no Negro problem we were told; it is the Northern magazines and agitators who stir up trouble. The Negro is content. He prefers separate facilities. While men pay taxes so the Negro can benefit from the new schools, if only people from the North would leave Mississippi alone to work out its problems of the satisfaction of both races. We heard that so many times and we almost believed it until some of us began slipping away from dinners and receptions and talking with small groups of intense Negroes, tragically eager to talk to someone who would listen. This is not the place to document those stories. Many of them we had no opportunity to check. But to me they seemed sincere, and they added up to a picture of dignity, of "second-rate citizenship." Perhaps it was the contrasts that got me down. To sip cocktails with a lady radiating Southern culture while she related her daughter's latest doggerel: "See you later intergrator; little white, chocolate chick." To eat dinner with the publisher of the local paper and have him explain that he never had and never would publish a picture of a Negro, not Roy Campanella or Marian Anderson, because "we mustn't let down the bars." And an hour later to be seated in a bare office, surrounded by deeply serious Negroes appealing for the chance to be treated like men, to be given the privilege of voting and equal treatment before the law, asking that their children not be brought up to feel inferior. They cited example after example to prove their points. We asked one colored boy what he saw when he looked into the future. He replied slowly and solemnly: "I see a long, dry, dusty road ahead." That is strong medicine to feed a Yankee. The fact that there are islands of progress and hope does not obscure the islands of despair which to me seem to violate every principle of Christianity and Democracy. It is the South's problem, but at stake in this struggle is human dignity. If that is lost, I wonder at the value of the other things we were shown in Mississippi. Perhaps it is ironic that I should feel this way after being entertained by an organization dedicated to preserving Mississippi's segregated way of life. These are impressions. I may be mistaken. But so many Negroes, speaking privately, said: "Remember, it is our tax money, too, which is bringing you down here. If you go home and write that the Negro is happy in Mississippi you will have let down the colored man in his struggle for dignity." A New Hampshire Yankee can only view the situation with mixed and disturbed emotions.

Senate Hopefuls Appear For Campaign Debate

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Democratic Sen. Wayne Morse and his Republican opponent, Douglas McKay, appeared for the first time Thursday as they spoke from the same platform. It was the first time that the two candidates have appeared together since they opened their bitterly fought campaign. Each spoke for 10 minutes of the subject. Resolved, that the interests of Oregon would best be served by election of a (Republican or Democrat) to the United States Senate.

They shook hands and smiled for photographers before the talk, but each scowled several times while the other spoke. Morse said that McKay, who then was Oregon governor, had sent him a telegram in 1952 urging him to vote to override President Truman's expected veto of the tideland oil bill or, if he could not do that, to refrain from voting. "That telegram and what it symbolized should disqualify McKay as a candidate for the Senate of the United States," Morse said, adding, "You won't find me ducking a vote on any issue."

McKay, who spoke first, said of Morse, "No senator has done more to endanger world peace... he is always invariably wrong on issues involving peace or war." "While Mr. Morse says he would like to debate some issues, on the two most important issues of our time—political morality and world peace, he is strangely silent," McKay said. The meeting, attended by an overflow crowd of 350, was arranged by the Portland Women's Forum. In other political developments, State Sen. Monroe Sweetland, Democratic candidate for secretary of state, accused his Republican opponent, State Sen. Mark Hatfield, of "consistently voting with those who would destroy... the Oregon system" of government—full participation by the people in decisions of their government. He said that Hatfield voted for Measure No. 1 on the November ballot, which Sweetland said, "would destroy the power of referendum of legislative tax measures by the people..." Sen. Richard Neuberger, who has been campaigning on behalf of Democratic candidates, told a Klamath Falls meeting that a drop in Oregon's per capita income could be blamed on "adverse Republican administration policies." He said the state's per capita income was \$87 above the national average in 1952, but by 1954 it had declined to \$10 below the national average. He said Oregon farm income had slipped 27 percent since 1952. He told a Medical meeting that "an avalanche of high-priced propaganda financed by sources hidden from public view" was being used by opponents of Morse the smother his record as a great senator.

Mayor Wins Jail Release

CHICAGO (AP)—Mayor Herbert C. Polchow of suburban Park Ridge, who went to jail Oct. 5 for refusing to sign a check for costs of a special village election, has won his release.

Polchow, who earlier said he would stay in jail until next April's village election if necessary, signed the checks totaling \$400 yesterday. He had contended the special election illegal and was jailed for contempt of a court order directing him to sign the checks. Polchow said he changed his mind because "my friends have asked me to come out and lead the fight" for economy in the village government.

The checks were for costs of a special election in which the village authorized \$190,000 in bonds to help pay for a new sewage disposal system. Polchow said the Village Board's \$-6 tie vote on the proposal to authorize the election was illegal.

Demo Rally Set In Lakeview

LAKEVIEW — A Democratic rally is slated for 8 p.m., October 24, in memorial hall of the courthouse.

Arrangements are being made by Dick Moffet, chairman of the Lake County Democratic Committee and Mrs. Helen Koby, Merce-Ullman county chairman. Speakers at the rally will be Senator Richard Neuberger who will be accompanied by his wife, Al Ullman who will be accompanied by Mrs. Ullman, and Boyd Overholser, candidate for state senator.

The public is invited to a coffee hour at 5:30 p.m. at memorial hall. A no-host dinner is set for 8 p.m. at Hunter's Lodge for the visitors.

Local Student Named Veep

Jim Borden, sophomore majoring in pre-medicine at Harding College, Searcy, Arkansas, has been elected first vice president of the Health Council at the college. The council was organized to promote better health among the student body. He is also a member of the Alpha Phi Kappa social club and the Science Club.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Borden of 3835 Pleasant, Borden was graduated from Klamath Union High School in 1955.

Morty Meekle



Stratton Denies Charge At Senate Banking Probe

CHICAGO (AP)—Gov. William G. Stratton, appearing before a U.S. Senate committee, has denied "any implication" that onetime Auditor Oleville E. Hodge was spirited off to prison to keep other names out of the 1 1/2-million-dollar state check-cashing scandal. Stratton, a Republican seeking reelection, testified before the Democrat-controlled Senate Banking and Currency Committee yesterday at his own request. The hearings, which have lasted two weeks, were scheduled to end today with questioning of State Treasurer Warren Wright and Charles J. Fleck, Cook County (Chicago) public administrator. During nearly 3 1/2 hours of testimony, Stratton said he was powerless, under the state constitution, to interfere with other elected officials. He testified that once the embezzlements were known, he took "firm, effective" action in getting rid of Hodge. The committee, headed by Sen. Fulbright (D-Ark.), has been probing the banking aspects of the Hodge swindle with the aim of improving federal banking laws. Hodge, a Republican, is in prison for admittedly embezzling 1 1/2 million dollars from the state treasury through a bogus check-cashing scheme. Stratton recounted his action in the case beginning July 4 when he ordered the Illinois Budgetary Commission to investigate published claims of wrongdoing in the auditor's office. He said it was during a conference he and Atty. Gen. Latham Castle had with Hodge July 16 that Hodge agreed to resign. Fulbright frequently read from newspaper accounts and editorials concerning the Hodge swindle. At one point he asked Stratton about a story intimating the governor had moved in quickly to remove Hodge and start him to prison to clamp a lid on the scandal and keep other names out of it. "I resent any implication that any political deal was made in the presence of the governor and the attorney general at the conference with Hodge," Stratton retorted. "I think it is a dastardly and infamous inference." Stratton said he "never dreamed" Hodge was a "concomitant thief" and he added, "Nothing I could have done would have prevented Oleville Hodge from becoming a thief." The 42-year-old governor, a former state treasurer, said he faced a legal difficulty in coping with

Hodge because he had no constitutional control over the auditor, an elected official. But, he said, he stepped into the matter anyway, and was not challenged by Hodge. He added he had taken steps to "see that a repetition" does not occur. Just before Stratton left the witness table, Fulbright commented: "The state authorities were slow to move into the situation until the embezzlement was revealed. There were many signs that something had gone astray in Hodge's office. He didn't file reports as he was required to do by the constitution, and he lived very extravagantly." Fulbright said he thought the

Marine Hero's Life Said 'Hell On Earth' By Wife

PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—The wife of a Marine Congressional Medal of Honor winner convicted of attacking his commanding officer said the Corps made her husband's life "a hell on earth" after he received the nation's highest military citation. The Marine, Alfred Lee McLaughlin, 28, of Leeds, Ala., Thursday began serving a three-month sentence following his court martial. He occupied a brig cell with Matthew C. McKeon, the former drill sergeant who led the Parris Island "death march." Mrs. McLaughlin charged that the Marines exploited her husband after President Eisenhower awarded him the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1953 for killing 150 enemy soldiers in Korea. She also charged that other Marines ridiculed him because he won the medal. McLaughlin, who was a technical sergeant before the court martial, was found guilty of an armed attack on his commanding officer, Maj. Henry Checklout, stripped of his rank, fined \$120 and sentenced to serve three months.

President Eisenhower gave him the medal. Anytime the Marine Corps could use him to get publicity, they did. They couldn't leave him alone. She said he led a difficult life while stationed with a reserve unit at Rome, Ga., where the attack occurred. She said he was harassed by a master sergeant stationed there. She said the master sergeant once yelled sarcastically "Attention, here's our hero—a Congressional Medal of Honor winner," when McLaughlin entered a room. "Mac cried and told me after that incident I'm not a man any more," she said. "I can't do anything about the things they say to me. They outrank me and they've got me where they want me!"

SCHOOL CARNIVAL
The annual Alamo PTA school carnival is in the junior high gymnasium. Fun starts at 7:30 sharp for the entire family. A portable TV set is among the numerous prizes to be given away. Proceeds from the carnival will be used to buy school equipment for both the Alamo elementary and junior high schools. Mr. and Mrs. Don Hummel are chairmen.

Don't show me bifocals

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JUST IN TIME FOR EARLY Christmas Lay-aways

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