

# Slavery, Insurrection Cases Go Before Southern Courts

By United Press International  
Slavery and insurrection, anachronisms in 20th century America, were the subjects today of federal court study in South Carolina and Georgia.

A three-judge court in Americus, Ga., will be asked to halt prosecution of insurrection charges against five young Negroes and whites. The five have been held in jail without bond since their arrests last August during racial demonstrations in that city.

The slavery charges were ordered placed against Robert Moultrie Cook, a prominent South Carolina tobacco farmer, by a federal grand jury Wednesday. Federal attorneys charged that Cook used threats to force Max Roy McKenzie to work on his farm for \$3 per day and kept half of his pay to "pay off some sort of alleged debt."

The civil rights workers in

Americus are charged under a reconstruction era statute which provides that death may be imposed for violation of it.

The suit seeks immediate release of the five and asks the court to prohibit officials from intimidating or obstructing efforts to demonstrate peacefully.

This second phase of the petition which seeks to halt interference with demonstrations could set a precedent for legal action in civil rights disputes all across the South.

Officials in Jackson, Miss., continue their court testimony today in an action to permanently prohibit massive racial demonstrations in that city.

Mayor Allen Thompson testified in a state court hearing Wednesday that integrationist organizations threatened action that was "potential dynamite" unless they complied with their desegregation demands.

A temporary injunction

against demonstrations in Jackson was issued during that city's mass protest campaign last spring and the current suit seeks to make it permanent.

## Holmer Back At State Post

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (UPI) —Freeman Holmer said today he will return to his duties as Oregon director of finance and administration prior to the Oregon legislature's special session next month.

Holmer took a leave of absence from his post earlier this month to conduct a market survey for a private firm. He is in Albuquerque attending the Western Conference of the Council on State Governments.

# Selection Of Jury Enters Fourth Day

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (UPI) —The Thompson "murder for hire" trial headed today for ignition of the fireworks. That may come by Friday. Veteran observers said the jury could be picked by then.

The trial of the little man from St. Paul, the criminal attorney with the piercing eyes entered its fourth day today with five jurors yet to be chosen. They are three members of the regular panel plus two alternates.

Tilmer Eugene Thompson, the criminal attorney who at 35

was plunged into tragedy when his wife was slain last spring and three months later became the center of shocked and angered interest in the Twin Cities when he was indicted on a charge of murder, has been taking a sort of mental beating in the jury picking.

Three-fifths of all the persons examined as prospective jurors Wednesday in Hennepin County District Court were excused from duty because they said they were opinionated as to his guilt.

The trial was brought here on a change of venue from the Twin City of St. Paul, where the murder was committed. The issue that won the location switch was that publicity in St. Paul tended to create bias.

The state of Minnesota accuses Thompson of first degree murder in the bludgeoning of his pretty wife Carol, 34, mother of four and devoted church worker whose life was insured for \$1,061,000 in policies of which Thompson was the beneficiary. It will try to prove that he masterminded a three-man plot to do away with her.

Placed in the picture were taken or by whom.

The woman also said she has received a series of mysterious phone calls and in each case the party calling held the line open but did not speak.

Police returned the pictures and the \$100 to the perplexed woman, and began checking the possibility of a link between the anonymous calls and the letter.

A police spokesman emphasized that no law has been violated, but authorities felt an investigation of the incident was advisable.



LAWYER-CLIENT HUDDLE — T. Eugene Thompson (right) confers briefly with his attorney, Hyam Segell, before the opening of another day of Thompson's first degree murder trial in Minneapolis. He is charged in the March murder of his wife. After four days, only nine jurors had been selected. — UPI Telephoto

# Robinson Explains County School Board Views On Redistricting Issue

Editor's Note: The following statement on the present reorganization effort of the three school boards of the county was submitted to the Herald and News by County School Superintendent Cliff Robinson to explain the viewpoints of the county school group.

Considerable interest is being shown in the efforts of the three school districts to reach agreement on the division of assets and the sharing of responsibilities in the proposed school district boundary changes which will be presented to the voters in the near future. County school district directors and officers are of the opinion that their position has not been presented clearly to the public.

They opposed the one-district proposal, which was voted on last June, because of the excessively high tax increase which would have been forced on the rural residents of the

county district and because they sincerely believed that two districts of nearly equal size and resources were sounder and would better serve the educational needs of the area. After the single-district plan was defeated, the county school officials joined the city school officials in an intensive study of possible plans to be submitted to the county court, which also serves as the boundary board. A plan was accepted.

Now, it appears that an impasse has been reached over the adjustment of the assets. The key issue seems to be the use of a "common yardstick of property values." This term has been repeated numerous times of late and has taken on an aura of importance far beyond its merits. Actually, the county school district is using a "common yardstick of property values" in its efforts to reach agreement with Districts No. 1 and No. 2. Possible "yardsticks" are original cost, replacement cost, depreciated value, and fair market value. The latter is not applicable in this instance because no one wants to buy a school house for school purposes.

The table of depreciated values, which was prepared for study by the directors of the three boards, employs the same "common yardstick of property values" as the figure submitted by the union high school district. The only difference is that the county's "depreciated

values" were prepared by the county school district's insurance broker, who used experienced insurance appraisers to determine the replacement cost of the county's buildings and their depreciated value, while the union high school's schedule was prepared by the American Appraisal Company.

The directors of the county district can see no reason why they should spend almost \$10,000 of the taxpayers' money to have an appraisal made by an appraisal company at this time solely for the purpose of assuring the directors of Districts No. 1 and No. 2 that the insurance company's appraisal is accurate. They doubt if the patrons of the district would look with favor on such an expenditure.

The arithmetic of the issue, which we believe the public is entitled to know, is simple. The assessed value of the overlap area is \$15,774,600. This is the difference between the assessed value of District No. 1 (\$28,508,674) and District No. 2 (\$44,283,364) both per the 1963 Tax Summary.

If the present plan of boundary changing is adopted by a favorable vote of the people, \$6,064,968, of the assessed valuation, now in the county school district will be transferred to District No. 1. This is part of the present overlap area. This \$6,064,968 represents 9.6 per cent of the total assessed value of the county school district (\$6,064,968, the total assessed value of the county school district, divided by \$63,057,486, the part to be transferred to District No. 1). So, the people to be transferred to District No. 1 are entitled to take with them as a credit, 9.6 per cent of the total value of the assets of the Klamath County School District. The three boards have been in agreement on this point.

The disagreement lies in what are the total assets, using depreciated values as the "common yardstick of property value." The insurance schedule of the county school district puts a total depreciated value of \$3,323,920 on the elementary school buildings. The county believes this figure is accurate because it has all of its buildings insured for full replacement cost. The depreciated value of the elementary school buildings, according to the insurance schedule, and other assets make a grand total of \$3,973,900. This amount times 9.6 per cent and minus the depreciated value of the Fairhaven building equals \$119,385, the credit that the area being transferred from the county school district to District No. 1, under the proposed change, would take with it.

There is a second important consideration. If the boundary changes are approved, the union high school district will go out of existence and its assets and responsibilities will be divided between District No. 1 and the county school district. The question is who gets how much and who is responsible for educating the union high school children?

The assessed value of the

part of the union high school district going to the county will be \$9,689,797. Since the union high school district has an assessed valuation of \$44,283,364, as per the 1963 Tax Summary, the \$9,689,797 going to the county represents a 21.9 per cent interest.

Since the union high school building would be operated by District No. 1, they would keep a 78.1 per cent interest in the assets of the union high school (\$2,954,727, depreciated value) and the county school district would receive a 21.9 per cent interest of \$647,065. Since the area leaving the county school district would take a credit of \$119,385 with them, which would be a debit for the county, the county would end up with a net credit of \$527,700, a sizable sum of money. This is the sum of money that District No. 1, according to the report in the Herald and News, "... sees no other alternative than to cancel. . . . It is difficult to understand how anyone truly interested in solving the overcrowding problems at the union high school by district reorganization could raise such a financial obstacle as this.

The third important consideration involves the responsibility for the high school students. If the plan under consideration is approved, the county will have the responsibility for 640 students now attending Klamath Union. The 1963 legislature enacted a law that permits students who are enrolled in a high school to finish their education in that school and causes their home district to pay their tuition.

The forecast indicates that

this provision would cost the county school district \$417,186 over the three-year transition period. This factor further highlights the difficulty faced by the county board in accepting a proposition that on the one hand wipes out a credit of \$527,700, knowing that the county will be obligated for \$417,186 for tuition. This is an extremely dear sacrifice in behalf of school district reorganization and the effort of the county to help solve an overcrowded condition of its neighbor.

It was mutually agreed, at several meetings attended by representatives of the three districts, that success in reorganization would be possible only if it would not be necessary for either district to have to pay the other district anything in the adjustment of assets and for the education of the other district's students during the three-year transition period. The county school district believed in this principle and so advised the county court of its decision in a letter dated Sept. 27, 1963.

This position was taken with the realization that the county school district had a potential credit of \$110,514 after the tuition for the high school students would be paid.

It recognized that there are many factors to be considered in the adjustment of assets. The schedule that was submitted by the county for preliminary study contained only those items that had been mutually agreed on. Reconsideration of factors could favor District No. 1, but there are many others that would favor the county's

position, i.e., the shift of the Weyerhaeuser multi-million dollar assessed valuation, with few children to educate, from the county elementary to District No. 1 was accepted graciously. The resolution of District No. 1 also opens the door for some interesting changes in what the county should include in its total "depreciated values."

The paragraph "District No. 1 is also of the opinion that such items of assets as are used should be the same in all districts involved, and that those items should include all assets toward which the taxpayers in the areas affected have made a contribution" possibly refers to the county's serial levy funds. The resolution could build in the county which very well exclude all of the were in existence before the county unit was formed in 1923. Their total depreciated value represents a considerable sum and it was included in the schedule submitted for study.

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