

The Whole Legal System Is Faulty**The South And Civil Rights: More Than The FBI**By **JERRY DeMUTH**

Atlanta—As the role of J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI is being debated in the press, the FBI's image on civil rights is being painted as if all were as well as could be expected. But those working in civil rights in the South know otherwise.

John Perdew, who works for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in southwest Georgia, explained, "My contact with the most active local representatives of the federal government, namely, agents of the FBI, has been less than enchanting. While perhaps one-third of the local agents I have met have been fairly impartial Northerners, the others, natives of the South, have taken statements from me with poorly disguised skepticism and sometimes antagonism."

A former Justice Department civil rights attorney himself has said, "The whites from the FBI are Southerners for the most part. They're local FBI men. They have no real interest in civil rights."

Just how really local some of these FBI agents are is demonstrated by George Everett who was the agent in Greenwood, Miss. He resigned from the FBI and ran for district attorney—and won. When campaigning he said, "The South has no friends in the legal staff of the Justice Department."

Pro Forma Display

Rev. John B. Morris, executive director of the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, was shocked by the FBI agents he found in McComb, Miss. last fall. "The FBI agents I met," he declared, "seemed singularly disinterested in anything more than a pro forma display of investigation, and at least one agent's conduct in his interrogation of a voter registration worker was reprehensible and indistinguishable from the attitude of local police who attribute the guilt for the crisis (the bombings) to such workers."

Last November 1, three white girls working in Mississippi were shocked after asking protection from the FBI agent in Boonville. He told them that they shouldn't be worried but said their companion might have trouble because he was "just a nigger."

Frank Morse, a Stanford University student who was in Mississippi for the election campaign, expressed dismay over the FBI. "They paid no attention to accusations that our telephones were tapped," he remarked. (Last summer, a rights worker also had complained to the FBI that the office phone was tapped, only to be scoffed at. That was impossible he was told; wire-tapping is illegal).

Needs Local Police

Morse also felt that the FBI's attitude was the same as that of the local sheriff and pointed out that the agents absolutely refused to even shake hands with any Negroes at the office. (This reminds one of ex-agent Jack Levine's comment that many agents protested having to shake hands with "niggers.")

Besides their own attitudes, local FBI agents also don't want to upset their working relationship with local police. Congressional Quarterly stated: "The FBI needs the cooperation of local police for their other investigations, and therefore police brutality cases put it in a delicate position. These are not their favorite cases," says Burke Marshall. "Marshall is head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

But as Marshall also explained, sometimes their work with local police goes even further. In a letter to Alabama Representative Kenneth Roberts on Justice Department attorney Theilton Henderson (who resigned after he lent a Department-rented car for Martin Luther King's use), Marshall wrote, "... It has happened that local law enforcement officers have sought and obtained information from Mr. Henderson in their preparation for handling tense situations."

If the local agents are not dedicated to civil rights, neither are officials in Washington. On

October 7, 1963, in Selma, Alabama, a Justice Department attorney told author-historian Howard Zinn: "I've become jaded. A young Negro fellow comes up to me with his face cut and tells me a policeman did it, and I shrug my shoulders. Sure, I think these local officials are breaking the law. But someone up there in Washington doesn't think so."

J. Edgar Hoover, as his now famous press interview demonstrated, certainly can't be thought of as being dedicated to civil rights. Not only did he call Rev. King a "notorious liar," but he has also declared himself a "states righter," criticized the Justice Department for a "harsh approach" toward Mississippi, said "the closest and most cordial relationship" exists between Mississippi state police and FBI agents, and praised Mississippi's governor.

"I couldn't speak too highly of Gov. Johnson," he said. "He is a thorough gentleman and is mature and sound in every respect." (When campaigning in 1963, Paul Johnson reportedly described the NAACP as standing for "Niggers, Alligators, Apes, Coons and Possums.")

Hoover also has a tendency to identify the entire civil rights movement with the "communist conspiracy." Fred J. Cook, author of "The FBI Nobody Knows," feels this is one reason for the FBI's reluctant handling of civil rights cases.

Close Friend Of Eastland

This belief of Hoover's may come from his close personal friendship with Mississippi Senator James Eastland. As chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, Eastland sees civil rights and "communism" as being synonymous.

But Sen. Eastland is also chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. And this committee allocates funds to the Department of Justice.

This may be one reason why John Perdew sees this reaction in the Department: "Official statements from Washington are usually

evasive concerning allegations of police brutality: 'There is no evidence,' 'investigations are under way'—after three months!, or 'we have no authority to deal with this issue.' But SNCC has submitted hundreds of sworn affidavits specifying cases of police brutality, and the FBI is in possession of photographs showing bruises and welts which we suffered as a result of official violence."

Civil rights attorney William M. Kunstler has pointed out that there are many laws—Secs. 232 and 233 of Title 10, Sec. 241 of Title 18 and Secs. 1337 and 1339 of Title 42—which can be used to arrest and prosecute persons who deprive other persons of their federal rights and used even to protect these persons.

Judges Are Racists

If cases can't be won in federal courts in the South, it is only because of the racist attitudes of the judges appointed by the president. And here John F. Kennedy was the most guilty because he appointed half a dozen racists to federal benches. (Sen. Eastland as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee normally makes the recommendations.)

These men have spoken of preserving "our segregationist laws," have denounced the 1954 Supreme Court decision, and one said that Negroes attempting to register were "a bunch of niggers on a vote drive" who "act like chimpanzees."

But the federal government hasn't only been inactive, or appointed racist judges, it has also acted on the wrong side. In the summer of 1963, 35 FBI men conducted an investigation in Albany, Georgia, for the Justice Department. When they were through, nine civil rights leaders were indicted, and the Attorney General himself announced the indictments at a special news conference in Washington.

It is clear that more is wrong than just J. Edgar Hoover or even the FBI. The trouble lies within the legal system operating in the United States, or at least as it operates in the South.

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In Starkville, police ticketed Bill Light three times.

But the greatest harassment occurred at the polling places in Canton, a town of 10,000, 25 miles north of Jackson, and the seat of Madison County. Canton is a big White Citizens' Council town, leading officials are members and the council sticker appears at most establishments, including on the voter registrar's door.

Six persons were ejected from Canton area polling places where they were poll

Thirteen Insurance Companies Paid For Woman's Single Illness

Mary Mincy Hubbard was both accident prone and sickly, a combination of conditions which took her into South Carolina hospitals thirteen times in four years.

For these misfortunes, the 35-year-old Dillon, S. C., housewife and her husband turned a net profit of \$13,562.71, after hospital bills.

When she came down with acute gastritis in April, 1960, Mrs. Hubbard's medical expenses were \$287.71; however, her "foresight" in buying health and accident insurance from numerous companies resulted in the collection of \$2,562.47 for the attack from thirteen of the companies.

Four months later when she fell in the bathtub and was charged \$470 for medical attention, Mrs. Hubbard collected \$3,261 in insurance.

Unfortunately, the concern displayed by Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard in providing for such emergencies in advance was not accompanied by equal concern for the legal niceties.

In applications for insurance with at least 20 companies, the Hubbards omitted the answers to some highly germane questions—omissions which constituted mail fraud.

After postal inspectors had assembled a voluminous file on their operations, the Hubbards entered guilty pleas to charges of making false statements on insurance applications.

Mr. Hubbard received a three-year sentence which was suspended and Mrs. Hubbard got a two-year suspended sentence. Both were fined \$1,000 and placed on probation for five years. In handing down the sentence, the court directed the Hubbards not to buy insurance of any type from any company without the written permission of their probation officer.

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announced its selections of high school textbooks for state schools. The three titles under fire were all rejected. As the books chosen are for a six year period, it will be at least that long before there is any chance that evolution will be taught in Mississippi high schools.

After the FBI arrested the 21 suspects in the Philadelphia triple rights slaying, a Philadelphia minister made regular pleas on the radio, urging people to pray for those arrested because they were innocent.

Some people may have been shocked when Deputy Price's role was revealed by the FBI. Price was the cop who had arrested the three and said he let them go that night. The FBI charged that Price arrested them as part of a Klan plot and then, after the three were released, was part of the snub that killed them.

This was not strange news, for southern police are known for more than just arresting civil rights workers. (Sheriff Rainey himself has killed more than one Negro.) But the FBI made no mention of the two state troopers who helped Price make the arrest and who helped take the three to jail.

In McComb, one of the bombing suspects arrested—and given a suspended sentence—was an auxiliary policeman. Reportedly after bombing a Negro's home, he went home, changed into his uniform, grabbed his rifle, and returned to the scene of the bombing with other police.

When Byron De La Beckwith was tried for the murder of Medgar Evers, two Greenwood policemen testified that they had seen "Delay" in Greenwood close to the time of the slaying. Greenwood is a

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Cigarettes Get Their Maker

R. J. Reynolds Sr., once predicted that people would one day prefer cigarettes to chewing tobacco, snuff and cigars. He placed all of his manufacturing hopes in the cigarette-making basket and when he died, he left each of his four children

The War In Viet Nam

Viet Nam is a country full of pretty girls, disease and official lies. It is also a place where the United States is engaged in a losing war—although we don't call it a war.

Bernard Fall of Howard University says that officials in Viet Nam issue "wildly inaccurate" information.

Richard Starnes, a Scripps-Howard columnist, has complained that many of the weekly briefings given to newsmen are "mostly fiction."

Starnes declared that some U.S. offi-

two hour drive from Jackson, scene of the killing. But according to a southern newsmen who investigated the case, one of these policemen helped Beckwith plan the killing.

The racist attitude of Mississippians toward American Negroes also of course applies, doubly, to African Negroes. In the fall of 1963 when Paul Johnson was campaigning for governor he commented that African Negroes "sit around sharpening their teeth on rocks to tear human flesh." And a few months later a Mississippi newspaper told its readers that Africans "have just quit eating one another and have just started wearing clothes."

More recently the October 1964 *Citizen*,

Hask Anti-Dandruff Ad Claims Get An FTC Shampoo And Haircut

Hask Hair & Scalp Conditioner will not prevent, permanently eliminate or cure dandruff.

The products manufacturer, West Forest Corp., of Great Neck, N. Y., had claimed in its advertising that Hask "positively prevents dandruff once and for all. . . ."

The company promised the Federal Trade Commission that it would not make such claims in the future.

\$20,000,000.00.

This month, his son, H. J. Reynolds died. Cause of his death: cigarette smoking.

You won't find this information in any ads for Camel cigarettes.

cials in Viet Nam are "chronic" liars."

Despite this, U.S. newsmen have tried desperately over the past two years to make Americans aware of some of the truths of what has been happening in Viet Nam.

Recently the Survey Research Institute of the University of Michigan conducted a survey for the Council on Foreign Relations. It interviewed 1,501 Americans. One out of every four adults did not know there was fighting in Viet Nam.

"Official Journal of the Citizens' Councils of America," published in Jackson, carried an article, "African Nations Are 'Emerging' Into Idiocy!" In it the author speaks of African Negroes as a "bunch of Saturday-night irresponsible" who "have no more clear idea of an implementation of a true *nkuru* than a pig's version of culture." Of a Kenyan cabinet member he writes that he "is quite possibly still trying to solve the problem of pants."

But the author is no Mississippian, rather he is nationally syndicated columnist Robert Ruark who, when he is not attacking and ridiculing African nations and peoples, is longing for "the good old days" of Batista in Cuba.

Seven Negroes and one white girl walked into the public library in Hattiesburg early last fall and took seats at tables and in lounge chairs. Within twenty minutes Police Chief Hugh Herrin walked in and said the library was being closed; Mayor Claude Pittman had issued the order so that a complete inventory could be made. The seven Negroes were permitted to leave but the white girl was arrested on the street and charged with vagrancy.

Libraries were closed for inventory, but this was done on rather short notice. It was the second time in seven months that it had been closed for inventory.