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## Entire Nation Bears Guilt

Bert Ferguson

WDIA (radio station)

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# A W D I A EDITORIAL

by BERT FERGUSON  
Executive Vice-President, General Manager

Broadcast

Wednesday  
5/17/67

## ENTIRE NATION BEARS GUILT OF MISTREATING NEGRO

Dr. James Silver spoke in Memphis, recently, to a Unitarian group at Hotel King Cotton. Dr. Silver is the former University of Mississippi professor who wrote, "Mississippi, the Closed Society."

He made one point which it might be well for us to keep in mind, in discussing civil rights matters. Dr. Silver is now teaching at Notre Dame, in South Bend, Indiana. He said that a comparative study of conditions in Indiana in the years before the Civil War shows that, if anything, the Negro got worse treatment than he received in the South.

So the problem of what to do about making our Negroes into first class citizens isn't only a Southern one. It belongs to the entire nation.

But, said Dr. Silver, white people in the South, as well as in other parts of the country, must realize that when the Negro gets equal job opportunity, or integrated schooling, he is only getting what he was legally entitled to, years ago.

Prejudice and counter-prejudice create many strange situations. Dr. Silver remarked that his son went to Harvard College, but was turned down for entrance into Harvard Law. He returned to Mississippi and worked, without salary, helping Negroes to find themselves. He got a strong endorsement from Aaron Henry, the Mississippi president of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People. And then he was accepted by Harvard Law.

Silver said that he wrote Mr. Henry and commented that times certainly seemed to be changing.

But, in a sense, it was, to us, just another indication that Dr. Silver was right when he said the whole nation has short-changed the Negro, through the years.

It seems that even sophisticated Harvard has a conscience that works.

Editorial Broadcast Schedule — 7 days week

A.M. 2:35-4:35—7:35-10:35\* (9:35 Sat.)\* P.M. 1:20-3:35—6:35-9:35\*\* 11:35 (Not Sun.\*\*)

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