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Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi

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ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS

OF MISSISSIPPI

STATES' RIGHTS

RACIAL INTEGRITY

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

2nd ANNUAL REPORT, AUGUST 1956

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

J. B. CUNNINGHAM
BROOKSVILLE

GLENN TRUSTY
TUPLO

WILL E. WARD
STARKVILLE

M. L. BRANCH
WINONA

BEN PERRY
GRENADA

Z. M. VEAZEY, JR.
SENATOBIA

E. W. HOOKER
LEXINGTON

FRED JONES
INVERNESS

PETE F. WILLIAMS, SR.
CLARKSDALE

FRED A. ANDERSON, JR.
GLOSTER

JUDGE TOM P. BRADY
BROOKHAVEN

ELLIS W. WRIGHT
JACKSON

J. O. HOLLIS
CARTHAGE

WM. H. JOHNSON, JR.
DECATUR

MARION SIMPSON
CANTON

WARD HURT
LUMBERTON

DEWEY MYERS
PRENTISS

J. E. STOCKSTILL
PICAYUNE

R. P. PARISH
STATE TREASURER
PRES. BANK OF GREENWOOD
GREENWOOD

ELLETT LAWRENCE
FINANCE CHAIRMAN
GREENWOOD

ROBERT B. PATTERSON
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
GREENWOOD

W. J. SIMMONS
ADMINISTRATOR
808 PLAZA BUILDING
JACKSON

In July, 1954, the first Citizens' Council was formed in Indianola by fourteen men, who met and counselled together on the terrible crisis precipitated by the United States Supreme Court in its Black Monday decision of May 17, 1954. For the first time in American history, racial segregation, the way of life regulating the daily activities of tens of millions of American citizens, black and white, in a well known pattern of familiar and satisfactory conduct, has been decreed illegal.

Despite the long range dangers to our constitutional safeguards apparent to many men, North, South, East and West, in legislation by judicial fiat, the immediate and pressing danger to men and women in Mississippi and the rest of the South was the potential flood of negro invasion into our schools, parks, swimming pools, restaurants, hotels, trains, buses, into our very neighborhoods and homes, and into public office.

To thoughtful men, concerned for the safety and welfare of their families and children's children, the prospect opened

up by their politically inspired decree appeared utterly unthinkable.

The best of prophets of the future is the past. History proves that the supreme power in the government of men has always been public opinion. Public sentiment is the law! It was felt that only through local grass roots organization could public sentiment be mobilized and expressed.

These fourteen men, having no idea that such a small beginning would, in a few months' time, expand miraculously into a virile and potent organization, worked out the basic ideas underlying the Citizens' Councils method of operation.

The idea for the four committees was born: Membership and Finance, Legal Advisory, Political and Elections, Information and Education. Within the scope of these four fields of activity lies the real heart and muscle of the Citizens' Councils.

The concept of assembling non-political community leadership into a unified body to provide the best thinking on the local level, dealing with local problems, became deeply rooted.

It was acknowledged that the impending threat was of such magnitude that our elected officials would be unable to deal with it without the unyielding and organized support of thousands of responsible white citizens to counter the steadily mounting pressure and unceasing attacks from left-wing groups, which were and are liberally financed, skilled in revolutionary techniques that are literally a closed book to most of our political leaders, and irrevocably dedicated to our destruction.

The word spread. Neighboring towns and counties heard of the plan, and began to organize. When some twenty counties had organized themselves, the idea of a State Association was conceived.

On October 12, 1954, the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi was organized at Winona, Mississippi. That was the date on which the officers of Citizens' Councils from the various counties in the State of Mississippi got together and formed the first State Association.

The original purpose of the State Association was to provide an agency to act as an information center and as a coordinating agency for the various local Councils.

These men realized that logic and common sense was on the side of the South, in addition to the written Constitution of the United States. It was felt that it was the duty of the Citizens' Councils to rally support from patriotic citizens in the South and then with this support to present the case for the South to our Nation.

Through the State Association, speakers were made available to carry the message to interested groups and to civic clubs all over Mississippi and nearby sister States. A steady stream of printed information on the nature of the racial integration crisis was disseminated from the State Headquarters.

The first major accomplishment and the first project undertaken by our Councils on a State level was the passage of the Constitutional Amendment to raise voter qualifications in Mississippi. Although this same amendment failed to pass in 1952, it passed by a tremendous majority when the people of Mississippi, through the Citizens' Councils, were informed of the necessity and reason for the passage of this amendment. It is impossible to estimate the value of this amendment to future peace and domestic tranquility in this State.

Our next major effort was the school amendment. On December 21, 1954, the people of Mississippi passed the amendment that gave the Legislature the power to abolish public schools as a last resort in order to prevent racial integration in these schools. In passing this amendment we told the world in no uncertain terms that before we would submit to integration we would abolish our schools and set up State-supported private schools. Against organized opposition, the Citizens' Councils threw their strength behind the passage of this bill. The Council officers felt that if integration came to Mississippi our schools would automatically be destroyed, and we felt that this amendment was merely a legal statement of principles and fact that expressed the sentiment of the people of Mississippi.

During the first two years of existence, the Citizens' Councils have shown an impressive statistical growth. Today, in less than two years' time, sixty-five of our eighty-two counties in Mississippi have been organized, with a membership of over 80,000. We have Councils in each Congressional District in the State. Our membership is open to ladies and we are proud to have them.

The Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, backed by 80,000 members, has received national publicity, and your State Office is now corresponding regularly with interested Americans in forty-eight States, Iceland, Alaska, South Africa, Mexico, England, Rhodesia, Germany and Australia.

Your State Office has published many fine writings, pamphlets, documents and other literature which give concrete, convincing reasons for the absolute necessity of maintaining segregation in the South. We have mailed over two million pieces of literature into all forty-eight States and to every civic and patriotic organization in every county in Mississippi, as well as to interested individuals and public officials in every county in Mississippi and in every State in the Union. We are mobilizing public opinion so that it may express itself from every direction against every attempt at integration. We are attempting to present the case for segregation to the entire Nation, as well as to the South.

Members and officials of the State Association have traveled in eleven Southern States telling them what we have accomplished in Mississippi and helping them to organize. We are exchanging ideas and methods to be used in the battle that lies ahead. Citizens' Councils have been formed in Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Fifteen other States have similar organizations. From everywhere comes encouragement and moral support for our righteous cause.

March 12, 1956, was a historic occasion. This was the day that 101 Southern Congressmen and Senators signed the now famous "Declaration of Constitutional Principles," which made such an impact upon this Nation. The presentation of this document occurred twenty-two months after the Supreme Court's decision. It took that long for public sentiment to be felt in this resounding expression in the halls of Congress of these United States. The Citizens' Council is proud of the part that it played in the expression of this sentiment against the tyrannical actions of the Supreme Court.

The State Legislatures of six Southern States have already passed Resolutions of Interposition designed to stand between the people of their States and the tyranny of the United States Supreme Court. The Citizens' Council movement in the various States was instrumental in getting these acts passed.

While certain Council members may feel that they have contributed very little as individuals, the fact that they have organized and have developed a voting membership has given your State Office the numbers necessary to prove that we mean business, and their contributions have financed our movement.

Many of our local Councils have anticipated and prevented racial tensions from developing in their communities. We have proven to our negro citizens that the NAACP is a left-wing, power-mad organ of destruction that cares nothing about the negro. We have the support of the thinking, conservative negro people who believe in segregation and who have pride in their race. We want to help them develop racial pride in a segregated society.

Representatives of the State Association have made hundreds of talks and speeches before Councils and groups of all sizes, kinds and descriptions, from the small crossroads school-house meeting attended by 25 God-fearing and determined farmers to massive rallies numbering in the thousands.

Press relations have been established with the newspapers, wire services, radio and TV stations in the State. Editorial support as well as adequate and fair news treatment has been noted. A number of national magazines are now presenting the case for segregation.

Inroads of the NAACP upon local negro sentiment have been severely checked. School officials have been bolstered considerably by Council efforts in this direction, and by the creation of a strong moral tone of unified public resistance to the arrogant behavior of the NAACP.

An outstanding accomplishment of the Citizens' Council movement that has become increasingly acknowledged is the channelling of popular resistance to integration into lawful, coherent and proper modes, and the prevention of violence or racial tension.

The contrast between the right kind of organization and no organization has been particularly noted in some other States which have been slow to take forethought of the future of race relations within their boundaries.

WE MUST STRENGTHEN AND BUILD OUR ORGANIZATION FOR A LONG, HARD FIGHT . . .

It is the duty and responsibility of every Citizens' Council member to encourage his friends and relatives in other counties and States to organize so that they can do their part in this righteous cause.

Organized aggression must be met with organized resistance. The NAACP, CIO and other left-wing groups are well organized and highly financed. There are 40 million white Southerners and only 300 thousand members of the NAACP in the entire Nation. Forty million white Southerners, or a fraction thereof, if properly organized, can be a power in this Nation, but they must be thoroughly organized from the town and county level up. It must be an organization supported and controlled by the people and not by any politician or political party. The Citizens' Councils think and plan as a group and then they are able to act as individuals within their various churches, schools and any other organization to which they may belong. This has already proven effective in the various church denominations in Mississippi. The issue is segregation and States' rights. We cannot argue and fight among ourselves over methods and personalities.

The Black Monday decision of the Supreme Court should unite the South more solidly than any other issue. Counties and towns that have not organized should take pride in organizing so that others will not have to bear their burden for them. A man should be just as proud to serve in this cause as he would be in military service for this country.

The fate of this Nation may rest in the hands of the Southern white people today. If we white Southerners submit to this unconstitutional judge-made law of nine political appointees, the malignant powers of mongrelization, communism and atheism will surely destroy this Nation from within. Racial intermarriage has already begun in the North and unless stopped will spread to the South.

Integration represents darkness, regimentation, totalitarianism, communism and destruction. Segregation represents the freedom to choose one's associates, Americanism, State sovereignty and the survival of the white race. These two ideologies are now engaged in mortal conflict and only one

can survive. They cannot be fused any more than day can exist in night. The twilight of this great white nation would certainly follow. There is no middle ground. Are you doing your part?

ROBERT B. PATTERSON, Executive Secretary.

OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Listed on page one are the members of our Executive Committee, of whom we are very proud.

Three Executive Committeemen are elected to serve from each one of our six Congressional Districts. This election is held at the annual district meeting of County Chairmen in each district.

These are the men who set the policy and direct our State Association.

Our Executive Committee meets the third Thursday in each month in Jackson, Mississippi, at one of the hotels there. It is always a dutch luncheon meeting. This group provides the personal contact necessary so that your Association will be truly representative of all the local Citizens' Councils in the State. We ask that you note the name of your Executive Committeeman (page one) so that you can get in touch with him at any time.

OUR OWN NEWSPAPER

For nearly a year now, we have been publishing our own monthly newspaper, which acts as the official organ for the Citizens' Council movement.

We have found that the most economical means of keeping our members informed and of penetrating the paper curtain which in the past has kept the truth from the public is through this fine publication which is edited by W. J. Simmons, of Jackson, Mississippi. All of us are proud of the fine job that Bill Simmons has done as editor of our official organ.

Local Councils that have subscribed to our newspaper for each of their members find that they are well informed and are kept interested in this movement. Our members in Mississippi are urged to mail their copies of the newspaper to friends and relatives in the North after they have read it each month.

We certainly hope that next year each Council will subscribe to our newspaper for each of its members. The subscription price has been set at \$2.00 per year, the lowest figure possible, since no advertising will be accepted.

If preferred, you may send your subscription direct to The Citizens' Council, Room 605, Plaza Building, Jackson, Mississippi.

OUR STATE OFFICE

Our State office in Greenwood employs, in addition to the Executive Secretary, three full time employees to handle the mailing and administrative work. Our office receives as high as 300 letters per week from forty-eight States and eight foreign countries.

We carry on an active correspondence with Citizens' Councils and other organizations all over the United States. Although we are not directly affiliated with any organization outside of Mississippi, we exchange information and carry on liaison with all sincere patriotic groups which are dedicated to constitutional government.

The Citizens Councils' of America was organized in New Orleans last January, with individuals from eleven Southern States participating.

We believe that this organization will serve as an effective coordinating agency for the various State groups. Our local office in Greenwood is the temporary administrative headquarters.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A LOCAL CITIZENS' COUNCIL

The incentive to organize must come from the community concerned. In most cases a few individuals have provided the necessary spark for organizing their community. All that is necessary is that a small group of patriots who are interested in States' rights and racial integrity assemble and discuss the purpose of and the need for a Citizens' Council organization in their community.

The more complacency and apathy that the townspeople show, the greater the need for an organization. It is amazing how little the average American citizen knows about his State and local government, his Federal Government, and, most of all, his Constitution. Logic, common sense, and precedence are on our side. All we must do is organize so that we can educate our people, and give public sentiment means of expressing itself, from every direction, against every attempt at integration in our community.

If the desire of the group is to organize, then a resolution can be made from the floor that such an organization be perfected, and the group can elect a temporary Chairman, Secretary, and Steering Committee.

The group assembled can then set a date for the next meeting. Influential citizens in the community should be contacted, and invited to attend the next meeting.

The Steering Committee could act as a nominating committee and have a slate of officers prepared for presentation at the next meeting. This slate of officers should include Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Directors, to consist of at least twenty patriotic citizens. In most county wide organizations, the Board of Directors is picked with a certain number from each Supervisor's Beat or voting precinct to make up the twenty or twenty-five man Board of Directors. In the case of an organization which is only city wide, or precinct wide, a representative Board of Directors should be secured.

The importance of this local Board of Directors cannot be over stressed. They will assume the responsibility, rather than placing it all upon the Chairman, of governing the policies of the organization and of taking the necessary steps to legally and peacefully preserve peace and good order in the community.

At the second meeting, the nominating committee should present its slate and then nominations should be taken from the floor. In some communities it might be desirable to have the assembled body elect a Board of Directors and then the Board of Directors could elect its own Chairman and other officers.

A competent speaker should be present at the second meeting to tell the assembly what the Citizens' Council is, what it has done and what it hopes to do. It should be stressed that each member has the responsibility of educating himself and of assisting in getting membership for the organization.

The Executive Committee, after this meeting, and after the Council has been officially organized and its officers elected, should meet and select the four committees, which are:

1. Information and Education Committee.

It is the duty and responsibility of this committee to use every means at its command to give the people of that community the facts regarding the Supreme Court decision and racial integration. Some of our people have accepted racial segregation without knowing the reasons for it. These reasons must be given to them. The tremendous propaganda campaign directed against our youth and our citizens by the left-wing elements of this country must be nullified. While we cannot control the National media of propaganda, such as radio, television and the news magazines, we can influence these media on the local scene. Truth and logic are on our side. All we must do is educate our people so that they can support our campaign to get these facts to the entire Nation.

2. Legal Advisory Committee.

This committee should be composed of lawyers and people with administrative experience. The function of this group is to seek legal means for maintaining our States' rights and our right of self government and local control. This group may anticipate moves by national organizations dedicated to the agitation of our negroes, and legally nullify these acts. We can win this fight within the framework of our Constitution and our State and local laws, and this we intend to do.

3. Political and Elections.

This committee should be made up of citizens whose duty it will be to see that any candidate for State or local government expresses his stand concerning States' rights and racial integrity. The Citizens' Council is not a political organization, but it is natural that our members should be interested, as good Americans, in politics. This committee should see that the members of the local Citizens' Council are qualified and eligible to vote, and that they are informed as to these important issues mentioned above. If you have a strong organization, this committee will have very little to do.

Politicians don't lead, they follow. They find out which way the people are going and then they get in front of them so that they can lead them there.

4. Membership and Finance.

This is one of the most important committees. The leaders of this organization cannot operate without the support of the community. We must have a large membership. If a person is a member, he will take an interest and feel that he has a personal investment in this great movement, dedicated to the preservation of our States' rights and our racial integrity.

The only effective way to get members is by personal contact. The membership committee should be a large one, composed of dedicated patriots. Each man and woman can be given a list of persons to see so that no one person will have too great a burden. They can have application blanks to be filled out at the time that the dues are collected. Of course, each person should have blank checks with him and should be prepared to tell the applicant what the Citizens' Council is and what it intends to do.

The applications can be presented to the membership and finance committee for approval. In this manner, any undesirable persons who would embarrass the organization could be screened out and their money refunded to them.

In most Councils the membership dues have been set at \$5.00. This is very reasonable and would not place a great financial burden upon any person. In most communities, \$2.00 of this fee is mailed to the State Association for use in its organizational and administrative work. Two dollars is sent for the subscription to our newspaper, for each member, to be mailed from Jackson, Mississippi. The remaining dollar is kept in the local treasury for any incidental expenses that might arise.

We must have financial support for this movement. The left-wing organizations dedicated to socializing America have unlimited finances. If we are unable to finance this fight, we cannot fight. Every patriotic American should be proud to contribute at least \$5.00 to this great cause.

Most Councils find that if their members subscribe to the newspaper and their officers receive regular information and literature from the State Association, it will be unnecessary to hold meetings more than two or three times a year. This is not a social organization, but the people must be kept informed.

The local Board of Directors should meet at least once every month, once every two months or upon call as often as necessary. In most cases these meetings of the Board of Directors are dutch luncheons held during the daytime and, of course, this personal contact is the secret of our organization.

EACH COUNCIL A SEPARATE CORPORATION

Each Council should be incorporated, for the protection of its members, as any other good business organization. Each Council is a separate autonomous organization. Below are sample Constitution and By-Laws that could be used by any Council. The local Council should either incorporate by county or town, according to the situation. Here are sample copies of local charters and applications.

THE CHARTER OF INCORPORATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCIL

1. The corporate title of said corporation is: _____
Citizens' Council.
2. The names and addresses of the incorporators are: _____
3. The domicile of the corporation is: _____
4. The amount of capital stock is: No capital stock.
5. No shares of capital stock shall be issued. The corporation shall not make or distribute any profits. Only certificates of membership in _____
Citizens' Councils of no par value shall be issued and the number of memberships shall be limited.
6. The period of existence shall be perpetual.
7. The purposes for which the corporation is created are:
 - (a) To be a civic improvement organization and society for the promotion and maintenance of peace, good order and domestic tranquility in the City of _____, and elsewhere in the State of Mississippi.
 - (b) To work for the maintenance and preservation of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and of the powers reserved to the States of the United States by the Federal Constitution.
 - (c) To encourage the free discussion by Mississippians of those problems upon the solution of which depends the welfare and prosperity of the State of Mississippi.
 - (d) To disseminate facts to the citizens of Mississippi with reference to the serious problems confronting them; and to encourage the peaceful, lawful and orderly solution of those problems.
 - (e) This corporation shall not be required to make publication of its charter, shall issue no shares of stock, shall divide no dividends among its members, shall

make expulsion the only remedy for non-payment of dues, shall vest in each member the right to one vote in the election of all officers, shall make the loss of membership, by death or otherwise, the termination of all interest of such members in the corporate assets, and there shall be no individual liabilities against the members for corporate assets, and there shall be no individual liabilities against the members for corporate debts, but the entire corporate property shall be liable for the claims of creditors.

(f) The rights and powers that may be exercised by this corporation, in addition to the foregoing, are those conferred by Chapter 4, Title 21, Code of Mississippi of 1942, and amendments thereto.

8. The number of shares of stock to be subscribed and paid for before the corporation may begin business is: None.

Incorporators

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF _____

This day personally appeared before me, the undersigned Notary Public in and for _____ County, Mississippi, _____

incorporators of the corporation known as _____ Citizens' Council, who severally acknowledged that they signed and executed the above and foregoing Articles of Incorporation as their act and deed on this date.

**BY-LAWS OF THE _____ CITIZENS' COUNCIL
A MISSISSIPPI NON-PROFIT CORPORATION DOMICILED AT
_____, MISSISSIPPI**

There shall be a Board of Directors in number 50 to be elected from the membership. The Board of Directors shall meet at their discretion or on call from any Officer, and ten members present shall be considered a quorum.

From the Board of Directors there shall be selected a President, who shall also serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors; a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom are to be selected from the Board of Directors, and who shall have the duties usually incident to their respective offices.

And to provide a liaison between all Councils, one Director and one alternate shall be selected, by its membership, from each Council in the County. But County Directors and alternates shall have no vote on those matters that are of concern only to _____ Citizens' Council. Said Board of Directors is authorized and empowered to fully and completely control the business and affairs of the corporation, and included therein but not limited thereto, the following powers are vested in said Board of Directors:

From among the Board of Directors the President will name a Chairman for each of the four Committees recommended for all Councils, namely:

- Information and Education
- Membership and Finance
- Political and Elections
- Legal Advisory

The chairmen so named may select from the membership as many as he deems practical and necessary to do the job. And he will furnish to the Secretary the names, addresses and telephone numbers of those selected.

The Board of Directors is vested with full and exclusive power respecting the requirements for membership and the grounds for expulsion from membership, and may, by majority vote, expel any member at any time. Except for membership at the organization meeting, all applications for membership must be approved by the Executive Committee. Annual dues, calendar year, shall be \$5.00 per member, \$3.00 of which shall be sent to the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi.

All funds of the organization shall be paid to and kept by the Treasurer, who shall keep complete records of receipts and disbursements, which records shall, at all times, be open to the inspection of the directors or any of them.

There shall be an annual meeting of the corporation held during June of each year, at such time and place in _____, Mississippi, as determined by the Board of Directors and on notice to members, for the purpose of electing officers and directors and any other business; and other meetings may be called by the President, Vice President or Secretary at any time he may deem necessary. Said Directors and Officers to serve for one year from July 1st.

These By-Laws may be amended or changed only by two-thirds vote of the membership present at any annual meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose.

In the event of a vacancy in any office, for any reason whatsoever, said vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors. In the event of a vacancy or vacancies on the Board of Directors, a successor or successors shall be chosen by the remaining members of said Board of Directors.

In the event that an annual meeting for any reason shall not be held the officers previously elected shall continue in office until their successors shall be duly elected.

PUBLICATIONS

(All literature postpaid)

PAMPHLETS

- Black Monday (Book) \$1.00.....By Judge Tom P. Brady
- Where Is the Reign of Terror?.....By Congressman John Bell Williams
- The Supreme Court Must Be Curbed.....By James F. Byrnes
- A Christian View on Segregation.....By Rev. Guy T. Gillespie
- The Ugly Truth About the NAACP.....By Atty.-Gen. Eugene Cook
- We've Reached Era of Judicial Tyranny.....By Senator James O. Eastland
- Conflicting Views on Segregation.....By Dr. D. M. Nelson
- Interposition, the Barrier Against Tyranny.....By Congressman John Bell Williams
- The Citizens' Council.....By R. B. Patterson

Prices of pamphlets listed above are:

10.....\$1.00 50.....\$4.00 100.....\$6.00

SINGLE SHEETS

- Is Segregation Unchristian?
- The St. Louis Story.
- Dr. Nelson's Letter to "Life".
- Prominent Kingtree Negro Makes Frank Statement.
- Crime Report.
- (Single sheets listed above are 100-\$3.00.)
- Land of One Race.....100-\$1.50
- Confederate Flag.....50-\$2.50; 100-\$4.00; 500-\$12.00

Each Council should upon occasion mail certain pieces of this literature to every member of their Council or either distribute them at meetings. The Directors should urge all members to write to friends and relatives in other States and to pass this literature on to them so that each person can do his part in presenting the case for the South.

FINANCE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I wish I could tell you that we have a tremendous bank balance, no financial worries, sitting on top of the world and rearing to go. I cannot do this because, and maybe I am a pessimistic cuss, I realize that securing funds and getting in memberships for 1957 is going to be a big job, and the older I get the less I look forward to hard work.

Our second year's operations have been financially, as well as in every other respect, decidedly better in every way than our first year's operations. For obvious reasons it wouldn't be wise to publish here a financial report, but any member can get a report, up to date, on request.

I think every Council is now on a calendar year basis, insofar as memberships are concerned. The 1957 membership cards will be a big improvement over the 1956 cards. The card that the local Council keeps and the one to be forwarded to the State Office will be size 5" x 3", which is a standard size index card and can be filed in a standard file. The 1956 cards were hard to keep up with. We live and learn.

I see where the NAACP ended the year 1955 in the black to the tune of \$149,756. The total income was \$672,422; expenses were \$542,422. This, of course, does not include the funds donated under the name of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. The Lord only knows what this branch of the NAACP had given to them by misguided fools. Donations to this fund are tax exempt.

It is the world's tragedy that anyone starting a movement like ours has to battle all the way for funds, whereas anyone starting a left-wing movement advocating mongrelization can get all the financial aid and publicity required. Our fight has gone a long way and is still moving upstream.

I told you in my 1955 report that we must get this Council organized on a businesslike basis. I now tell you that this has been accomplished. Here in Greenwood we have a nice office, air conditioned, three extremely nice girls who are doing a good job. We have a postage meter, which saves a lot of time. We have a folding machine and a duplicating machine. The duplicating machine and the addressograph and several pieces of furniture are all loaned to us by "a poor printer," who lives here in Greenwood.

The State Office is in the same block with the Finance Chairman, and every morning I get a daily report of the preceding day's activities. The books are being kept in my office, and each month your Executive Committee is furnished with a report showing operations for the month and to date during the year. We did not secure the funds for 1956 that we set up in our budget, which has caused us now to have to curtail expenses and limit our activities. This is bad. This fight is going to last for many years, and we all know it. It took the NAACP nearly fifty years to get the Black Monday decision. I do think our fight is going to require from fifteen to twenty years. This means that we must keep a constant stream of facts going into the hands of the white people of the North, East, and West. Unquestionably what we have done so far is the reason why visitors to the North find a great deal of sympathetic understanding of our problems. If the Citizens' Councils had not been started, we know that we would not have found this sympathy. In fact, a condition would exist here, and all over, that would be awful beyond words, if our movement had not been started.

We must support this movement. We have got to dig down and provide the money. I can guarantee you that if the money is put up, your State Office will do its part. We could have looked the whole country over and could not have found a man who would have been even half as good in his job as Mr. Patterson has been. His whole life is wrapped up in this work, and all of us can, I believe, agree that he is doing a good job and will continue to do so, if we will help him. That is what makes me feel so bad about having to curtail activities at this point.

I hope that when we begin our drive for 1957 dues and funds, which I suppose will be about October 1, we will have the fullest cooperation of every Council member in the State.

ELLETT LAWRENCE, Finance Chairman.