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MISS-SEGREGATION

EDITORIAL PAGE

JACKSON DAILY NEWS

Mississippi's Greatest Newspaper

FREDERICK SULLENS, Editor, 1906-1957

JAMES M. WARD, Editor

MISSISSIPPI PUBLISHERS CORP., Publishers

PAGE 8

TUESDAY, FEB. 14, 1961

Some Cute Little Snoopers

Several men have been going over Mississippi posing as civil rights investigators, putting pressure on Negroes and whites alike for intensive questioning. One citizen was quizzed for three hours we are told.

A. H. Rosenfield, chief of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission, has told the Associated Press that none of his investigators have been in Mississippi for some time.

Atty. Gen. Joe T. Patterson, having received reports of the mysterious inquisitions, has advised public officials and private citizens not to entertain these unidentified snoopers.

A statement issued by Mr. Patterson said, "It has been called to my attention that there have recently been individuals in the state representing themselves to be agents of the Civil Rights Commission who call upon whites and colored citizens for the purpose of questioning them with reference to violations of civil rights, particularly with reference to registration and voting as well as other matters.

"I wish to inform the people of Mississippi, both white and colored, that they are not required by any law, federal or state, to submit to questioning by these individuals, especially is this true where these individuals refuse to identify themselves.

"Any person seeking to question a citizen

without positively identifying himself should be immediately reported to the sheriff of the county. In all probability, a person refusing to identify himself is not a representative of the Civil Rights Commission but is probably a representative of the NAACP, the Americans for Democratic Action, or some other similar organization whose primary mission is to agitate," said Mr. Patterson.

That sounds like excellent advice.

We don't know whose job it now is to snoop on these cute little snoopers and we couldn't care less. The main thought is for Mississippians to listen to the advice given by the attorney general.

With so much twisting and warping going on by the racial agitators if you give this sort of person the time of day it will likely come out a batch of silly, moist-eyed hate propaganda, serving no worthwhile purpose.

Since an apparent effort is being made to convert the South into a Gestapo-style region, there was some sound military advice for American soldiers back in the days of the original Gestapo. Tell the anonymous quizzers only your name, rank and serial number.

If you don't happen to have rank or serial number, a fishy eye is an excellent substitute.