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Finding aid for the Citizens' Council Collection

MUM00072

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [Summary Information](#)
- [Historical Note](#)
- [Scope and Content Note](#)
- [Arrangement](#)
- [Administrative Information](#)
- [Related Materials](#)
- [Controlled Access Headings](#)
- [Collection Inventory](#)

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Repository

University of Mississippi Libraries

Creator

University of Mississippi

Title

Citizens' Council Collection

ID

MUM00072

Date [inclusive]

1947-1979

Extent

3.0 boxes 2 boxes (C-9) + 1 oversize box (G-9)

General Physical Description note

3 boxes (2.0 linear feet)

Location:

General Special Collections

Abstract:

The collection contains materials related to the formation and activities of the White Citizens' Councils in Mississippi. This collection includes correspondence, reports, speeches, flyers, article reprints, and other materials documenting the activities of the Citizens' Council from 1954-1979.

Preferred Citation

Citizens' Council Collection, Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi

HISTORICAL NOTE

The first Citizens' Council (also known as the White Citizens' Council) was formed in Indianola, Mississippi, following the United States Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, which struck down segregation in public schools. White businessmen, planters, and professionals organized the group to prevent the court's ruling from taking hold in Mississippi. Thomas Pickens Brady, a circuit court judge and Citizens' Council leader, published a handbook entitled *Black Monday* outlining the group's goals, including the abolition of public schools, nullification of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and establishment of a separate black state. The publication of this handbook inspired many Mississippians to join the Citizens' Council movement.

Other Citizens' Council chapters were formed around the state, and within three months a statewide body, the Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi, began in Winona, Mississippi. By 1956, the group claimed eighty thousand members in Mississippi. It was particularly active in the Delta region and also had a powerful Jackson chapter, led by William J. Simmons. A national group, the Citizens' Council of America, was formed by 1956. Its board of advisors included Senator James O. Eastland and Representative John Bell Williams of Mississippi, Senator J. Strom Thurmond and Representative L. Mendel Rivers of South Carolina, and Georgia Governor Marvin Griffin.

The Citizens' Council received its revenue from membership dues and grants from the publicly-funded Mississippi State Sovereignty Commission, an agency that promoted segregation and investigated the activities of civil rights groups. The Citizens' Council officially eschewed violence as a strategy, although many Council members privately condoned the violent tactics used by the Ku Klux Klan. Council members used their connections to influential lawmakers, editors, business people, and state officials to enact pro-segregation legislation, exert economic pressure on those who supported civil rights activities, intimidate African Americans who attempted to register to vote, and create publicity for anti-integration viewpoints. The Council published a national magazine, *The Citizen*, and produced a weekly telecast, "Forum," on WLBT-TV in Jackson. The Council's work has been credited with significantly reducing the number of Mississippi blacks registered to vote in the 1950s. The Council was active for more than a decade, but began to lose some of its influence by the late 1960s.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection documents Citizens' Council activities from 1954 to 1979. It is housed in three boxes and organized according to format.

Box 1 contains a variety of printed material produced by or relating to the Citizens' Council, including correspondence, reports, speeches, flyers, press releases, newsletters, advertisements, pamphlets, broadsides, article reprints, and ephemera. It includes a copy of Thomas J. Brady's 1954 pamphlet, "A Review of Black Monday," which is credited with inspiring the formation of the Citizens' Council.

Boxes 2 and 3 contain oversize article reprints and loose issues of publications, including *The Citizen*, *Dixie-American*, *Citizens' Council*, *The Community Citizen*, *Augusta Courier*, *Citizens' Informer*, and a Citizens' Council section of the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger*.

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

ARRANGEMENT

This collection is arranged by format.

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Publication Information

University of Mississippi Libraries 2 April 2012

Access Restrictions

The Citizens' Council Collection is open for research.

Copyright Restrictions

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for

purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

Additions

No further additions are expected to this collection.

Acquisition Information

The Citizens' Council Collection was created by compiling printed material from the Knox Collection (79-1) and the Race Relations Collection (76-15), both housed in the Department of Archives and Special Collections at The University of Mississippi.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Archives and Special Collections staff. Finding aid encoded by ByteManagers, 2005. Finding aid revised by Laura Helton, 2006, and Kathryn Michaelis, June 2012.

Alternative Formats

This collection has been digitized and made available [online](#).

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

RELATED MATERIALS

Resources at the University of Mississippi

This collection has been digitized and made available [online](#).

More materials related to race relations and integration can be found in the [Civil Rights and Race Relations Subject Guide](#).

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Format(s)

- correspondence
- journals (periodicals)
- pamphlets

Subject(s)

- Race relations
- White Citizens councils -- Mississippi
- White supremacy movements -- United States

[Return to Table of Contents »](#)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Box 1

Annual Reports

4th Annual Report, July 1958

2nd Annual Report, August 1956

Miscellaneous

Citizens' Council Resolution, 16 May 1957

News flash re: Emmett Till, Sr., circa 1957

Text of NAACP telegram regarding civil rights activity in Mississippi, 1961

Letter, W. J. Simmons to Mrs. Clifton H. Morgan, 17 February 1964

"Civil Rights and the Negro Revolution," a lecture presented by William J. Simmons at the University of Hawaii, 1964

Flyer for Citizens' Council program, Jackson, 1965

Jackson Citizens' Council Political Forum press release, 15 May 1967

The Council Newsletter, February 1971-June 1971

List of recommended speakers, undated

Book advertisement: States' Rights vs. the Supreme Court, undated

Questionnaire for political candidates, undated

Pamphlets

Ross Barnett: Strength Through Unity, 1960

Crime: Don't Let it Happen to You, undated

Dr. D. M. Nelson: Conflicting Views on Segregation,

1954

What Every White Parent Should Know, 1956

Essay Contest for MS High School Students, 1959-1960

How to Keep Schools Open, undated.

The Educational Fund of the Citizens' Council, undated

Propaganda in Our Schools, circa 1956

Congressional Committee Report on What Happened When Schools Were Integrated in Washington, D. C., circa 1957

Public Schools Mississippi, 1957.

James F. Byrnes: The Supreme Court Must Be Curbed, 1956

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

James O. Eastland: We've Reached the Era of Judicial Tyranny, 1955

Joseph P. Kamp: Trickery, Treachery, Tyranny and Treason in Washington, 1957

I Am the Bill of Rights, undated

Scope and Contents note

3 copies

John Bell Williams: Interposition, the Barrier Against Tyranny, 1956

Judge M. M. McGowan: Interposition or Nullification, undated

Carleton Putnam: Second Putnam Letter Cuts Roots of Integration Fallacy, 1959

S. E. Rogers: Christian Love and Segregation, undated

Stuart O. Landry: Rebuilding the Tower of Babel, 1957

Rev. G. T. Gillespie: A Christian View on Segregation, 1954

Scope and Contents note

4 copies

A Jewish View on Segregation, undated

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

The Story of the NAACP, 1947

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

The NAACP Legislative Scoreboard, undated

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

The Ugly Truth About the NAACP, undated

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Carleton Putnam: High Court's 'Arrogance' is Viewed by Northerner, 1958

Eugene Cook: The Ugly Truth About the NAACP, undated

Congressional Committee Report on What Happened When Schools Were Integrated in Washington, D. C., 1956

James O. Eastland: We've Reached the Era of Judicial Tyranny, 1955

What is the Citizens' Council Doing?, undated

Essay Contest for Mississippi High School Students, 1961-1962

Land of One Race, undated

Louis W. Hollis: Integrity, 1965

John Bell Williams: Where is the Reign of Terror?, 1956

Famous Quotations: Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Henry W. Grady, James F. Byrnes, Theodore Bilbo

Robert B. Patterson: The Truth Cries Out, 1966

Statement by George Wallace, undated

What is the Citizens' Council Doing informative leaflet, June 1972-February 1978

Two small pamphlets: What is the Citizens' Council

Doing?, undated

Famous Quotations Cards

Tocqueville

George Washington

Scope and Contents note

3 copies

Thomas Jefferson

Theodore G. Bilbo

Scope and Contents note

5 copies

Henry W. Grady

Scope and Contents note

3 copies

James F. Byrnes

Scope and Contents note

3 copies

Abraham Lincoln

Correspondence

Robert Patterson, Winona, to "The Library" with carbon copy of Bibliography on Race Problem, 9 December 1954

Ellett Lawrence, Winona, to All District and County Chairmen, and the Executive Committee, 8 November 1955

Carbon copy, W. J. Simmons, Jackson, 22 November 1955

Ellis W. Wright, Jackson, to Members of the 1956-1960 Legislature State of Mississippi, 23 November 1955

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to "Those Interested in Helping," 26 November 1956

Scope and Contents note

3 copies. On back: C. E. Powell, Greenwood, to Ellett Lawrence, 14 December 1956

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to Citizens' Council Members and Friends, 11 January 1957

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to Mr. Paul R. Davis, 29 January 1957

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to All Council Members and Officers, 15 June 1957

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Robert Patterson, Greenwood, to All Officers and Members, 30 December 1957

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to All Council Officers and Members, 24 February 1958

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to Officers and Members, 24 September 1958

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," 27 November 1958

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," 12 March 1959

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to All Citizens' Council Officers, 22 May 1959

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," 20 August 1959

W. J. Simmons, Jackson, to "Dear Members," 31 August 1959

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," 10 November 1959

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to "Any and All Good, but slumbering, Citizens, Everywhere," 25 May 1961

H. C. Lewis, Deerfield, IL, to Association of Citizens' Councils, 16 December 1959

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," 25 July 1961

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "To Whom it May Concern," 17 November 1961

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," 21

June 1962

Robert B. Patteson, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," 24 October 1962

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to Citizens' Council Officers, Members and Friends, June 1965

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," February 1967

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "All Citizens' Council Members," May 1967

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," undated

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to "Fellow Mississippians," undated

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," undated

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood, to "Dear Friend," undated

Scope and Contents note

Includes contribution form

Ellett Lawrence, Greenwood to "Dear Friend," undated

Robert Patterson, Greenwood, to "All Citizens' Council Officers, Members and Friends," undated

Robert B. Patterson, Greenwood, to "To Whom it May Concern," undated

Notice of Meeting, 19 February [?]

Broadsides and Broadsheets

W. J. Simmons, "Organization: The Key to Victory," 1962

Dollars Make Sense, undated

It's Your Fight, Too, undated

Special Bulletin, undated

Migration, the Only Reasonable Answer, undated

Meeting, 28 May 1956

Community Plan to Counteract Negro or White Agitators, undated

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Resolution Adopted by Citizens' Council of Greenwood, Mississippi, February 1965

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Support Your Citizens' Council, undated

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

To the States, undated

Mississippi Population, 1960

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Aaron Henry of Clarksdale, 1964

An Ordinance, undated

Notice! Stop Help Save the Youth of America, undated

Scope and Contents note

9 copies

Is Segregation Unchristian?, undated

Scope and Contents note

3 copies

Keep the Dark Tide Moving North, circa 1960

Negro Senators from Mississippi, undated

Crime Report Reveals Menace of Integration, undated

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Historical Novelist Tells of Events that Almost Surpass Human Belief, undated

Prominent Kingstree Negro Makes Frank Statement, 1955

Jackson V. A. Hospital Integration, 1956

Vote for the Amendments, 1960

Population of the United States Based on 1950 Census

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

The Colossal Fraud on the American People, undated

Integrated Schools Hurting Both White, Colored Pupils,
circa 1955

Cartoon by "White," undated

Little Brother's New Social Club, undated

Martin Luther King at Communist Training School,
undated

Throwing Children to Wolves, undated

To Those Who Stand Against Race Mixing, undated

Land of One Race, undated

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

Ephemera

Brotherhood by Bayonet bumper sticker, circa 1962

Reprints of Articles

"Change of Mind," from *Sea Coast Echo*, 28 July 1960

"Going to [sic] Far," from *The Meridian Star*, 10
September 1961

Hodding Carter, "Citadel of the Citizens' Council," from
New York Times Magazine, 12 November 1961

"Being Married to a Negro Is ...," 18 March 1962

"Address by William L. Dickinson," *Congressional Record*,
30 March 1965

"Prominent Negro Warns of Demonstration Cost,"
Greenwood Commonwealth, 28 February 1964

Edward F. Cummerford, "Civil Rights and Civil Wrongs,"
American Bar Association Journal, February 1964

"Mississippi Purge of Moderates," *New York Times*, 3
November 1963

"Rape Victim's Child Can't Erase Night of Horror,"
Jackson Daily News, 13 May 1959

"Montgomery and the World," *Wall Street Journal*, and
"Rebellion Terror Felt by South Angola Whites," *Memphis
Press Scimitar*, 24 May 1961

Hodding Carter, "Citadel of the Citizens' Council," *New
York Times Magazine*, 12 November 1961

Scope and Contents note

Oversized item

"Pow-Wow on 40th Street," and "Integration Leaders
Work Busily to Influence Public Opinion," *Richmond News
Leader*, 27 February 1959

Periodicals

Box 2

The Citizen

Scope and Contents note

The Citizen was the "official journal of the Citizens'
Councils of America."

October 1961

May 1973

November 1961

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

September 1962

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

September 1964

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

July-August 1965

November 1965

January 1966

February 1966

March 1966

April 1966

May 1966

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

June 1966

April 1967

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

May 1967

October 1967

July-August 1968

January 1969

February 1969

June 1969

February 1970

March 1970

Scope and Contents note

3 copies

May 1970

May 1971

January 1972

February 1972

November 1972

February 1973

September 1973

June 1974

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

July-August 1974

September 1974

November 1974

December 1974

April 1975

July-August 1975

June 1976

July-August 1976

September 1976

January 1977

March 1977

June 1977

July-August 1977

March 1978

April 1978

May 1978

August 1978

September 1978

November 1978

December 1978

January 1979

Box 3

Dixie-American (Birmingham), 1 March 1956

The Citizens' Council (Newspaper)

July 1957

October 1957

April 1958

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

May 1958

Scope and Contents note

2 copies

July 1958

September 1958

October 1958

December 1958

January 1959

February 1959

May 1959

July 1959

August 1959

October 1959

Jackson, Miss. *Clarion Ledger*, "Citizens' Council Section,"
11 August 1968.

The Citizens' Informer (Jackson, Miss.), July 1975

Augusta Courier (Augusta, Ga.)

18 March 1957

1 April 1957

23 June 1958

17 November 1958

19 October 1959

The Community Citizen (New Albany, Miss.), 23 June
1955
