UNIVERSITY, Miss. -- We are practically prisoners on the campus of Ole Miss.

Newsmen entered the university campus Tuesday morning with little trouble, tho the State Highway Patrol had roadblocks at all five entrances. The officers checked the credentials issued by the University to newsmen and waved us on thru.

Suddenly things changed yesterday afternoon.

Some newsmen left for various reasons, to return to motels or to go to town. Some even told the officers they would be back soon and we got an "okay."

Then the state officers wouldn't let any newsmen on the campus.

They have made no effort to hamper newsmen on the campus, tho patrol cars pass thru frequently, with officers going to the cafeteria to eat in shifts, or just cruising about the campuses. Some Jackson, Miss., police are working with the campus police.

We are free to wander about the 1174 acre campuses. But if we leave, we can't return. We don't know how long this will continue. Some newsmen plan to try to spend the night on the campus.

Joe Moore, reporter-photographer for the Jackson Clarion-Ledger, and Van Savell, Associated Press man from Jackson, left the campus early Tuesday afternoon. When they returned, they couldn't get in.

They tried the other four entrances. Same thing.

Then they drove toward Batesville and came from west of the campus.
They didn't want to say exactly how they got back, as they might have to use the route again today. Anyway, they walked about two miles and actually crawled thru the sage more than 100 yards to avoid some state police. They were wet with sweat when they got back.

Savell later sent two Dekes to see about his blue '61 Falcon which he had left on a backroad, and which the police apparently had spotted. At least there was no one else around except office rs. He had to buy two new tires. The Dekes got his car for him, all four tires were flat. Two had been slashed. The newsmen don't know who did it. But they got back into what we call the University concentration camp.

Andy Reese, Memphis United Press-International bureau chief, along with Jerry Huff, Nashville, UPI photographer, and another UPI man left and couldn't get back. They asked fellow newsmen on the campus to keep them posted. Later, Daniels slipped back.

But there was little we could find out except the usual rumors. A number of newsmen who had been to Jackson or arrived late were unable to come onto the campus.

We have been given no reason for the ban at the roadblocks. University officials say they have nothing to do with it, and they apparently did not.

Dave Gayden, Chief of Operations for the Highway Patrol, would only say it was "orders."

Even highway patrolmen who know newsmen said they didn't know the "why" of the ban or how long it would last.

Late yesterday, highway patrolmen were told to take off their pistols and put them in the trunks of their cars. No explanation given.
One officer said the ban orders came from "No. 1." There was no explanation whether this meant Col. T. B. Birdsong, the Safety Commissioner, or embattled Gov. Ross R. Barnett.

Students are in a dither about the latest developments. Some students from Mississippi say close the school rather than admit James H. Meredith, negro. Some don't want the school closed, regardless. Many out-of-state students say they don't want to close the schools.

There has been no official ban on students talking to the press, but many won't, at least for quotation. Girls in sororities say the sorority leaders told them not to make comments to the press. In the dormitories, non-sorority girls were asked to by student leaders not to comment.

But many students talk to them reporters with assurance they won't be quoted.

An example of the strange reaction of students -- a young couple were in the Grove, a park, studying. An upperclassmen had his head on the lap of a Chi Omega pledge, a freshman, as he studied from an astronomy book. They readily consented to pose for pictures for William L. Leaptrott, Press-Scimitar photographer. But then declined to give their names to go with the picture.

Such is life on this beautiful campus, which has become virtually a concentration camp -- all because of the efforts of Meredith and his backers to break the color barrier.
There is some humor about the situation. Take the English professor. (No names by request). He gave the class a choice of reading Shakespeare's Richard II., Henry V., or Othello.

"Reading Othello might be a problem in Mississippi," the professor said with a smile.

"In the play, Othello, a Moor, is a Negro, and his wife, Desdemona, is white. But it shouldn't be any serious conflict. They were just married, not trying to get into school."

The class then voted almost unanimously to read Othello.

Clark Porteous