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Ole Miss Dean Blasts Councils

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Ole Miss Dean Blasts Councils

'White Muslims' Sought To Have Him Ousted, Farley Charges

From The Commercial Appeal Jackson, Miss., Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., June 21.—Robert J. Farley, who retires Sept. 1 as dean of the University of Mississippi School of Law, said here Friday that "the White Muslim branch of the Citizens Councils" had attempted in recent years to have him ousted.

"However," he added in an address to the law school alumni meeting here in connection with the state bar convention, "I withstood their attempts and remained."

Dean Farley said he and some members of his faculty had come under criticism since the 1954 United States Supreme Court school desegregation decision "because we taught what we thought the law is."

The 64-year-old dean, who reaches the mandatory retirement age of 65 in December, said he had requested "my friends" on the college board "not to make a fight for an extension" which is usually granted top officials.

"My staying on would bring on a fight and I don't think there is anything to be gained by it for the university," he said. "I am not bitter toward anyone. I appreciate the sympathetic understanding of the bar of the state and the faculty."

Dean Farley was presented a silver service on recognition of his 18 years as head of the law school and given a standing ovation after his address.

He will join the law faculty of the University of Florida. He will be succeeded next year by Joshua Morse III of Poplarville, a member of the faculty. In the interim while Mr. Morse is completing work at Yale University, Asst. Dean John Fox will become acting dean.

In his address, Dean Farley, who left the faculty of Tulane University in 1945 to head the law school, recounted the asserted pressures by strong pro-segregation groups and politicians because of his independent position. He said that "economic intimidation seems to be the primary method of the White Muslim branch of the Citizens Councils."

"I remained at Ole Miss even though I had learned back during the depression that a man can make a living with a maximum amount of ability," he said.

When he became dean his salary was \$4,000 compared to the \$7,500 post he gave up at Tulane. He had formerly taught at Ole Miss and had served as mayor of Oxford. His late father had been dean of the Ole Miss Law School.

Dean Farley said the law school has retained accreditation through the years "and now our requirements are higher than any school in the Deep South, other than the University of Florida."



CONTROL Cullen (right), chief of Mississippi department, looks at which is the br

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