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## Conspiracy in Dixie; Communists Urge Action

People's World

The Worker

Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi

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## Editorial

# Conspiracy in Dixie

Out of the murky violence in Mississippi, one stark fact has again emerged. When the Federal government brings into play the power at its command it can enforce compliance with the Constitution. The events also demonstrated once again that a "gradualist" policy by the Government, hesitation and vacillation in the exercise of its power do not embolden Southern forces of moderation or encourage those who seek peaceable solutions. On the contrary, hesitation reinforces the diehard bigots and inevitably sets the stage for bloody violence.

Particularly illuminating was a story by New York Times correspondent Claude Sitton, in which he interviewed the Rev. Duncan M. Gray, an Episcopalian rector in Oxford. Gray said that when the Supreme Court handed down its school desegregation decision in 1954, there was a feeling of "reluctant acquiescence" in many parts of Mississippi. The decision, as Correspondent Sitton records the recollection of Mississippians, "was received with calm."

If the Federal government had moved swiftly and forcefully the court's decision could have been applied at the time with a minimum of difficulty. But the Government did not move. Sitton recalls the subsequent chain of events:

"Senator Eastland . . . began asserting that the decision was not the law of the land and therefore did not have to be obeyed . . ."

"The first chapter of the militantly segregationist Citizens Councils was founded at Indianola, near the Senator's home."

"Mr. Gray contends," the report goes

on, "that there was a lack of national leadership on the issue under President Eisenhower and that this discouraged advocates of compliance with the court decrees.

"The segregationists moved into the asserted vacuum. The power of the political establishment, largely made up of conservative planters and businessmen, enforced conformity. And the Citizens Councils set out on a campaign to purge or silence their opponents."

For eight long years, the Federal Government did not move in Mississippi. But the Citizens Councils moved, and the politicians as typified by Eastland and Gov. Ross Barnett. They reinforced their reign of intimidation, and spread their racist propaganda to organize and encourage violent resistance to Federal authority.

It is significant that "a great majority" of the University of Mississippi faculty (Chicago Daily News, Sept. 30) favored admission of Negro student James Meredith, according to one professor. But the faculty did not dare to speak in the atmosphere that had been created by Federal indecision.

The attitude of students was undoubtedly mixed and confused, but it is significant that The Times report of Bloody Sunday said "a hard core of 70 or 100 youths, most of whom appeared to be Ole Miss students, touched off the riot." Out of an enrollment of 4,800, a "hard core" of 70 or 100 is a small percentage. But in the atmosphere created by Federal vacillation, this "hard core" minority was emboldened to violence while the vast majority either withdrew passively or was swept along.

Finally, only AFTER the troops moved in did moderate elements in the business and professional community of Jackson speak up against violent defiance of the U. S. Constitution.

What had existed in Mississippi, in short, was a deliberate conspiracy by powerful business and political forces, who have a vested interest in the maintenance of jimcrow, to foment and organize violence.

It is this conspiracy that needs to be smashed — not only to bring the Constitution to Mississippi, but also to facilitate its extension throughout the South. This requires:

- The most vigorous prosecution of the blood-stained conspirators — including Major General Edwin Walker, Gov. Barnett and leaders of the White Citizens Councils.

- Retention of Federal troops in Mississippi until such time as full guarantees are established against renewal of violence and intimidation.

- The swiftest action to crack segregation and terror in other schools of Mississippi and in the exercise of the franchise.

You should communicate to President Kennedy support of the action taken in Mississippi — belated as it was — and to urge that he not draw back now, that he act along the lines indicated above.

The battle has been joined. It is possible now to strike a telling blow against the jimcrow system that holds 20 million Negro Americans in cruel bondage, and stands as an ominous and constant menace to the democratic rights and economic well-being of all American working people.

### COMMUNISTS URGE ACTION

Gus Hall, Benjamin J. Davis, and James E. Jackson, in their telegram to the President said.

"The defiant rejection of the admission of the heroic James Meredith to the University of Mississippi places Gov. Ross Barnett, avowed member of the terrorist White Citizens Council, and other Mississippi state officials in open rebellion against United States in violation of Article 4, Section 4 of the Constitution.

Nothing less than full executive and armed authority of the President of the United States is necessary to put down Mississippi secession, compel admission of Meredith and restore Constitutional authority in state.

Criminal defiance by Governor Barnett is direct incitement to racist terror against Negro people in Mississippi and entire South and places whole country in dangerous Constitutional crisis.

Urge indictment, prosecution Governor Barnett and Senator Eastland as accomplice, in violation of Constitution outlawing of White Citizens Councils and Klan, immediate admission and protection of Meredith to University of Mississippi and use of armed Constitutional authority of President to restore law and order to state of Mississippi."

THE WORKER, September 30, 1962  
New York, N. Y.

(Hall, Davis and Jackson are the three top officials in the Communist Party, U. S. A. and "The Worker" is their official publication)