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## Delta Bar Group Advises Citizens

Clarion-Ledger (Jackson, Miss.)

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Monday, October 2, 1961

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## Delta Bar Group Advises Citizens

At Greenwood, members of the Leflore County Bar Association have announced that in view of recent inquiries in counties of the state, they felt it appropriate to reiterate the following resolution passed by the organization last year:

"In view of the public interest in possible investigations under Civil Rights legislation of various local affairs by the Attorney General of the United States, the LeFlore County Bar Association feels that as a public service it should inform local citizens of their individual rights if they should be approached or questioned by FBI or other agents in connection with such investigations.

"A citizen is under no legal obligation at any time to answer any questions asked by any investigator about anything except in a court hearing or at a court connected proceeding.

"For example, if an FBI agent or other investigator contacts a citizen at home, at work, on the street, or elsewhere, such citizens can, if he wishes, advise the investigator that he does not wish to answer any questions and can legally refuse to do so.

"In expressing that opinion, the Bar Association does not imply that information in any real criminal investigation should be withheld from any investigating officer. The FBI is a very efficient and honorable law enforcement organization, and the Bar Association urges that all citizens cooperate with it fully in its endeavors against crime and subversion.

"On the other hand, we do point out that when the FBI or another agency is ordered to make an investigation, not against a criminal or against a subversionist, but under Federal Civil Rights legislation, a citizen can legally stand silent and refuse to assist in that investigation by refusing to answer any questions of any kind, harmless as such questions may appear, about voting, schools, employment, or anything whatsoever."

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