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# Community Plan to Counteract Negro or White Agitators

Association of Citizens' Councils of Mississippi

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## COMMUNITY PLAN TO COUNTERACT NEGRO OR WHITE AGITATORS

## 1. AUXILIARY POLICE:

In each community dependable groups of citizens should be organized and deputized to act as Auxiliary Police, Deputy Marshals or Deputy Sheriffs whichever the case may be.

These men, along with the regular police, should be advised by an attorney as to the exact procedure they should follow in handling demonstrations and other racial outbreaks and exactly the manner used in making arrests, etc. One good level-headed officer should make all the arrests.

## 2. ADVISE NEGROES NOT TO AFFILIATE WITH OUTSIDE AGITATORS:

An organized effort should be made to get all white citizens to advise their negro friends and employees not to affiliate with outside agitators. It is a mistake not to give them advice in this critical time when they are accustomed to looking to their white friends and employers for advice.

The negroes should be informed that these outside agitators are sent for the sole purpose of stirring up trouble and they should be reminded that after the agitators have taken up a collection and left that local negroes will still be here to reap the harvest of racial chaos. They should understand this, after having watched what happened in other communities.

## 3. ADVISE WHITE CITIZENS TO IGNORE NEGRO DEMONSTRATORS:

Urge all white citizens to go about their normal business and report any demonstrations to the police, who can handle the situation. What these agitators are after is violence and publicity and orderly processes of law thwart them.

## 4. COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION:

The County Bar Association should publicize a resolution advising citizens of their rights. No citizen can be required to give any information whatsoever to any Civil Rights investigator, FBI man or other law enforcement officer against his will. (Example)

**The Clarion-Ledger**

Monday, October 2, 1961

**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 subversivist, 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."

## 5. IDENTIFICATION OF AGITATORS AND SUPPORTERS:

A responsible committee should be organized to collect information concerning the agitators and their contacts in the community. No individual can be forced to employ or patronize any person whose objective is to destroy goodwill between the races and to create chaos in our community.

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ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' COUNCILS

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