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UARY 31, 1962 32 PAGES

Berry Case Pri Are Called To About Con

Barnett's Favorite Hillbilly Now Sings Parchman Blues

By WILLIAM B. STREET

PARCHMAN, Miss., Jan. 30. — Wendell Cannon considers himself a musical director without portfolio or paycheck.

Mr. Cannon, Gov. Ross Barnett's hillbilly band leader during the 1959 campaign, maintains he's still on the staff of the state penitentiary here.

Prison Supt. Fred Jones says he's not.

One thing is for sure. He's not being paid. On this,

a te

both sides agree.

Mr. Jones said he fired Mr. Cannon because "he was agitating against me with the prisoners and prison employes.
"I was not," said Mr. Ca

The started Cannon when son story the summer of Mr. Cannon wrote which topped Mississippi's

political hit parade, something like this:

"In '59 Ross took a little trop
To talk to all the people in
the state of Mississip.
He took a little logic and a
little common sense And talked to the people The response it was immense d

Ross fired his gun
Little Carroll started runnin' . . ."

The song (sing it to the tune Battle of New Orleans'') was he musical highlight of a successful campaign. The "Little" cessful campaign. referred of course, referred to t. Gov. Carroll Gartin, to p former Lt. Gov. Carroll Gartin, Governor Barnett's run-off opponent

The tune propelled Mr. Cannon into the job of musical director of at the state penitentiary and into a perplexing situation that Mr. a perplexing situation that Mr. Cannon said Tuesday he doesn't

know how to explain.

When Mr. Cannon first came to Parchman, he organized two prison bands, white and Negro, prison bands, wh which went over the The board decided this n

which went over forming. The board decided this wasn't a very good idea and told Mr. Cannon to restrict performances to the prison itself.

About three months ago (Mr. Cannon and Mr. Jones don't recall the exact date) Mr. Jones fired Mr. Cannon.

The board of penitentiary commissioners, said Mr. Cannon, was to stay put. They even misisoners, said Mr. Cannon, told him to stay put. They even issued a couple of pay checks to him which he couldn't cash be-Mr. Cam. It They even wouldn't co-Mr. cause Jones sign them.

Mr. Jones says he ordered payment stopped on the checks. Mr. Cannon says he didn't find this out because he didn't try to cash them.

Some members of a legislative

committee investigating the penitentiary have heard reports that attempts were made to pass Mr. Jones' signature signature another prison official gn the checks. This co-sign the checks. This was

The penitentiary commissioners once fired Mr. Jones, but rehired him at the instigation of Governor Barnett.

Mr. Cannon has taken his oubles to Governor Barnett. "He said he would try to ork it out," said Mr. Cannon. Mr. Cannon's wife is a nurse the prison hospital and the Mr. troubles

Mr. Mr. Cannon's whe is a not see at the prison hospital and the V Cannons still live on the prison in property. He's going to stay on at the prison and see what Governor Barnett works out.

Both he and Mr. Jones seem quite adamant on the subject.