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Dissent in Mississippi

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JAMES WESLEY SILVER, professor of history at the University of Mississippi, said some pretty harsh things about the racial views and practices of white citizens of his state last week.

“Totalitarian,” “closed society,” “orthodoxy,” “monolithic,” and “corrupt” were some of the words he hurled.

Dissent

In

Mississippi

This sort of talk is not new from Professor Silver. For some 28 years at the University of Mississippi he has been saying similar things. He thereby qualifies as a genuine dissenter. And that is an interesting thing. He is a dissenter, who is really a champion of a national orthodoxy, in a state that vigorously dissents from that consensus.

We hope that Professor Silver will have many more years at the University of Mississippi to voice his dissents from his neighbors. And we hope that his neighbors will also have the privilege of voicing dissents from the orthodoxy of the rest of us.

The National Observer