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Ole Miss Prof Says AAUP Big Help In Integration Crisis

By JOHN PERKINS

Daily News Staff Writer

An Ole Miss political science professor has credited the American Association of University Professors chapter on the Oxford campus with playing a "substantial" role in the 1962 integration crisis.

Dr. Russell Barrett said here Tuesday night "the university would never have gotten through the year (1962-63) with the reputation it did. . .without the AAUP."

Barrett charged Ole Miss' reputation, as a result of the crisis over the forced entry of Negro James Meredith, was "not very good at best."

His statements came in a lengthy talk at the inaugural meeting of the Medical Center AAUP Chapter.

The University Medical School is a branch of the University of Mississippi, where Barrett has taught political science since 1954 and is a past president of the active AAUP chapter there.

He was recently elected to the National Council of the AAUP.

About 35 persons attended the meeting of the fledgling AAUP chapter.

'FALLING TO PIECES'

Barrett charged "the university (Ole Miss) was really falling to pieces" prior to the night of Sept. 30, 1962, and that what happened was "no compliment to any university that purports to be a university."

He claimed a statement issued Oct. 3 1962, by the Ole Miss AAUP "did more good" to Ole Miss' "national reputation" than anything else done that year by school administrators or state officials.

He assured the Med Center group the AAUP was "not a subversive organization or a Communist front."

He said the national AAUP—which numbers 70,000 college profs—was not a "far-out civil rights organization."

Barrett said the AAUP was primarily concerned with:

—"Academic freedom and tenure."

—Improving teachers' salaries.

—Faculty participation in university government.

He explained to the Med Center AAUP how the national organization's "blacklist" of schools worked.

Barrett said for a school to get on the AAUP blacklist was "dismal business."

'SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP'

"It's like second-class citizenship from an academic point of view," he said.

He said Alcorn A&M, a state-supported Negro college at Lorman, was currently on the AAUP's blacklist for actions in discharging a professor.

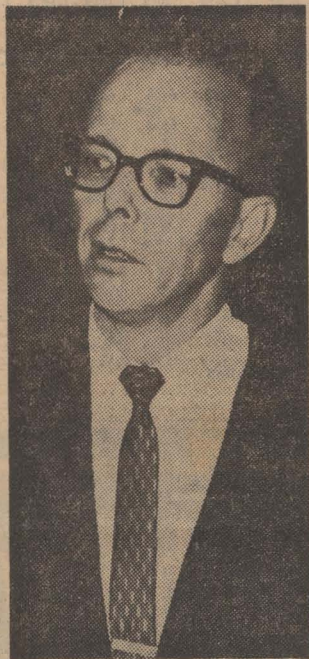
Barrett discussed at length the Ole Miss AAUP chapter's activities, particularly during the year James Meredith was on campus.

He said the AAUP members "organized the first faculty policing of a campus," and explained that about 40 professors roamed the campus at night with flashlights, looking for students who might have been causing trouble.

Barrett said the AAUP-dominated Faculty Senate at Ole Miss "played a major role — private of course — in working out these problems," referring to the integration crisis.

He told the group the Ole Miss AAUP chapter sponsored the raising of legal defense funds for art professor G. Ray Kerciu, who was charged by a law student with desecrating the Confederate flag and exhibiting obscene art work.

The charges against Kerciu, a Michigan native, were dropped before the case came up in court, and he left Ole Miss and went north, where his controversial oil paintings (six) sold



DR. RUSSELL BARRETT Promotes AAUP

for considerably more than their pre-controversy value.

Dr. Fred Allison, president of the Medical Center Chapter of the AAUP said the group was started last August.

Allison said the local chapter has about 25 members.

Other officers are Dr. Fred McDuffie, vice-president; Dr. Glenn A. Gentry, secretary-treasurer; and Dr. Lowell Stone, councilor.

Barrett, a Kansas native, is a graduate of the University of Kansas, and received his Ph. D. from the University of Melbourne, Australia, in 1952.