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## No Hot Line For Whites

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# No 'Hot Line' For Whites <sup>5/3</sup>

There are so many imponderables in the ill-fated military invasion of Mississippi in connection with the Ole Miss crisis until it seems the story will never die. Until an effort is made to produce all the evidence regarding both Federal and State blame is made public it is not likely the story will die.

In that connection the evidence presented by the Mississippi Legislative Investigating Committee deserves as much consideration and publicity as any gossip produced by the Saturday Evening Post, Look Magazine or any other sensational "scoops" that have received national attention.

However, each time the Investigating Committee opens its mouth this is followed by immediate, vehement rebuttal from the Department of Justice in Washington.

The committee has worked laboriously and has produced sworn testimony on heretofore untold facets of the Ole Miss story. Especially is this true regarding brutality on the part of trigger-happy marshals.

We are sure Mississippians do not desire that the Ole Miss story be belabored, but facts are facts and sworn evidence deserves public attention regardless of the sweeping denials forthcoming from Washington's political catacombs.

It is obvious at this late date that when racial agitators descend upon Mississippi they enjoy a "hot line" association with the Attorney General, if not the President, of the United States. When real or imaginary reports of "brutality" of a Mississippi police officer or sheriff or constable reaches Washington hordes of investigators rush into the state.

The Mississippi Legislative Committee has produced more than rumors and hearsay in connection with alleged brutality by marshals. We wonder where are the Federal investigators? We wonder why the U.S. Civil Rights Commission has been struck as mute as a June bug in demanding an investigation regarding the civil rights of white students. We wonder why the American Civil Liberties Union hasn't issued a statement. We wonder why street walkers aren't out hiking with placards. We wonder why reports of police brutality is a one-way street.

The Investigating Committee has won substantial support from an illustrious newspaper editor who was present during the Ole Miss riot. A recent editorial by James J. Kilpatrick, able editor of the Richmond News Leader, has been introduced into the Congressional Record and he vividly recalls instances of abuses by the Federal marshals.

So that Mississippians may know Mr. Kilpatrick's eyewitness report supporting findings of the committee, we're herewith reprinting this editorial:

## MISSISSIPPI AND THE MARSHALS

Last week an investigating committee of the Mississippi Legislature filed a report on the Oxford riot of September 30. We have not seen a text of this report, but we have seen an Associated Press story that gave two paragraphs to Mississippi's charges and three paragraphs to Bobby Kennedy's denial of them.

In brief, it appears that the report charges the Federal marshals with brutality that amounted in some instances to "physical torture." The marshals are accused of clubbings, manhandlings, denial of medicines to prisoners, and suppression of civil rights.

To these charges, Mr. Kennedy replied at length: Mississippi had filed "a grievous slander against courageous men." The Justice Department found it "shocking that facts should be distorted or ignored and in-

cidents manufactured." A formal statement regretted that the Mississippi legislators had not interviewed "objective" witnesses. Mr. Kennedy said the report "appeared to be inadequate and incomplete, and said the committee should have questioned newspapermen who witnessed the incidents and some of the marshals who were there."

Well, we were there.

We were there at 7 o'clock on the morning of Monday, October 1, while the tear gas still drifted in stinging patches across the university campus. We stayed in the Lyceum, the university's administration building, or very near it, until 4 o'clock that afternoon.

We were in the front hall of the Lyceum as the marshals lined up their captives. These prisoners were mostly high school and college boys, with a scattering of scruffy hill-types. All morning long, the marshals kept them standing in line with their hands clasped on their heads. After so long a time, the position gets to be agonizing. One by one, the prisoners were jerked forward and told to lean against a wall. Then a marshal would loosen the captive's belt, pull his trousers halfway down, and dump the pockets on the floor. Thus frisked, the captives then were escorted, or shoved, into an interrogation room. After a while, they were marched in groups, hands again clasped above their heads, to another room downstairs. Except in a handful of cases, no charges were filed against any of them. From the downstairs room they were marched to two prison buses parked in front of the Lyceum, where the tear gas was thickest. And there they sat, all day, their eyes burning, without food, water, or toilet facilities, and without opportunity to seek counsel. Late in the afternoon, most of them were released.

We were there, in the Lyceum, at the stroke of noon, when General Ted Walker was hauled away. One marshal would have been plenty of escort. Mr. Kennedy's burly commander, Mr. McShane, felt five husky deputies were required. They shoved Walker in a bum's rush down the hall, giving him plenty of hard elbow in the kidneys, and piled him into a waiting sedan. Then they smacked him with \$100,000 bail (convicted Communists, pending appeal, are free on \$5,000 bail), and on the say-so of some psychiatrist 2,000 miles away, who read about Walker in the papers, they jerry-rigged an order to clap Walker in a nut house.

We were there in the town square of Oxford that Monday morning, when Federal troops closed off the area and made it their own domain. We were there when MP's with fixed bayonets forced local women and children out of their cars in order to search the automobiles. We were there when private merchants, remote from the riot, were ordered to close their shops; we were there when law-abiding townspeople were denied access to their own local courthouse.

On October 1 and 2, we talked to a score of newspaper, radio-TV and magazine correspondents who had been physically present on the campus on Sunday night, September 30, when the riot occurred. Overwhelmingly, they agreed that experienced police officers could have prevented the riot by keeping their heads. They did not exonerate the students, but they put primary blame on the trigger-happy McShane and his undisciplined deputy marshals.

This was an ugly riot. We don't propose to pretty it up. But in our own view, "brutality" is a fair word for the marshals' conduct. If the shoe fits, Bobby, put it on.

-J.J.K.