

Traveling In Another World

July 9 p. 12

By PETER MARCUSE

Peter Marcuse, the author of the following article, is a Waterbury lawyer and former Waterbury alderman who is spending two weeks in Jackson, Miss., as a member of the civil rights project sponsored by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). Atty. Marcuse is working with a lawyers' group which is giving legal aid in civil rights cases. The COFO legal assistance program in Mississippi has been organized by the staffs of the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Council of Churches, CORE, and the NAACP. This is the first in a series on Mississippi.

Jackson, Miss. — Going down to Mississippi for all the world like making a trip to a foreign country in the midst of a war. The sense of entering a strange and hostile foreign land is borne out by the difference in the most commonplace habits of life in Mississippi.

The airport at Jackson, clearly covered under the ban on discrimination in inter-state facilities, has solved the problem of desegregating its restaurant by erecting an opaque screen between every table in the entire dining room. Thus each group of diners is segregated from each other group, and Southern mores are still protected!

Service in the restaurant is excellent, for the Negro waiters know the purpose for the arrival of an integrated group. Their warmth is balanced by the angry stares of other passengers at the terminal.

Driving in a car with Negroes and whites together on the streets of Jackson is not like driving down the streets of Connecticut. Arrests on motor vehicle charges are a favorite means of harassment of civil rights workers in Mississippi. One of the Mississippi Project volunteers was arrested in a smaller town

they are the only ones that stop, look and listen at every railroad crossing they come to!

But the situation does not strike the leaders of COFO, the organization handling the Mississippi Summer Project, as funny. In the city of Greenwood, Miss., alone speeding fines totaling over \$4,000 have been paid by the civil rights movement in the last three months.

Other instructions given incoming civil rights workers sound equally strange. An integrated party going to another community had better have enough gas for the return trip; no white service station will serve them and Negro stations are few and far between, and may be subject to intimidation for helping them.

Central headquarters must be notified every two hours of the whereabouts of any individual out of the office.

Although the Supreme Court has ruled that the right to make a telephone call after arrest is an essential ingredient of due process of law, the theory behind the rule is not welcomed in Mississippi, and events such as the disappearance of the three young volunteers in Philadelphia, Miss., show the importance of the check-in requirement.

For lawyers with the summer project, a white shirt, tie and jacket is absolutely mandatory despite the sweltering heat. Constables, sheriffs and justices of the peace are still a little more reluctant to harass or beat up someone who looks as if he might have some formal position or status than they are the average civil rights worker or college volunteer with his T-shirt and dungarees.

The use of private mobs and vandals, a developing technique for accomplishing the job of intimidation, disregard these insignia of respectability, however.

ect volunteers was arrested in a smaller town for driving with only one tail light and a defective muffler.

He was taken to the police station by the sheriff, and had to pay a \$15 fine on the defective muffler; no fine was levied on the tail light because Mississippi only requires one tail light on a car.

Ten blocks from the police station he was rearrested by the same sheriff and taken back on the defective tail light charge again; this time he was fined on that charge also because, to the sheriff's eye, the one tail light seemed to flicker. He narrowly escaped a second fine on the defective muffler charge by showing his receipt for payment of the first fine.

Leaving the police station once again, he was for the third time stopped by the same sheriff 10 blocks away and returned to the police station on the same two charges.

After showing his receipt for payment of the two fines, he was given a lecture on the treatment of trouble makers in Mississippi and told to get out of town and not to come back.

Sensitivity to these possibilities has gone so far that the story now is that you can tell a civil rights worker in Mississippi because

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Miller, who is not seeking reelection to Congress and planned to retire from politics, augmented these natural assets with his own campaign. William Warner, Miller's political aide and now staff director of the Republican National Committee, promoted Miller in the proper places. So did Miller himself, climax-

A lawyer and two leaders of the civil rights movement, after visiting the mayor of McComb, Miss., to discuss with him plans for the safeguarding of lives of the civil rights workers in his county, were followed by three cars after they left City Hall in the early evening and stopped and badly beaten just after they had crossed the line into the adjoining county.

Two sights, each near the headquarters of each of the opposing sides, vividly show the state of armed hostility.

The COFO headquarters is in a store front located on an appropriately named street, Lynch St., in Jackson. Bricks and chunks of concrete were thrown through the window with time-clock regularity, until finally the windows were boarded over and covered with plywood to protect the safety of the workers inside.

No attempt was made by the vandals to conceal their action. When, on one occasion, they broke the window of an adjoining store by mistake, they stopped and apologized to the store owner for their poor aim!

The stance of the City of Jackson is shown by the famous proud display of Thompson's Tank in front of the City Hall. A bright blue heavily armed and armored vehicle, it was specially conceived by Mayor Allen Thompson of Jackson to handle civil rights demonstrations and parades.

Equipped with tear gas guns, as well as more conventional weapons, it is supposed to be invulnerable to any normal attack.

Its main purpose, however, is to be a vivid symbol of the atmosphere of fear and intimidation that one side in this new civil war is using as its main weapon to hold down the other side.
