

Anti-Negro laws which are undeniably unconstitutional have been passed this year. Some instances of the legislatures activities this year are:

JANUARY 15, 1964...

House adopted and sent to the Senate a resolution memorializing Congress to defeat the pending civil rights bill.

Rep. C.C. Bullock of Harrison County offered the resolution and said members of the Congress were "bombarbed by the insistent voice of the minority" and the state should make its feelings known.

The resolution was requested by Ross Bennett in his farewell address. The resolution said: "The passage of this bill further invading the rights of the states to govern themselves and solve their own problems would do irreparable damage to the already critical race relations, would widen the breach already brought about by efforts to force a social merger of incompatible elements of society, and would give untold impetus to the strife and turmoil that has torn our nation asunder..." The resolution was passed unanimously.

JANUARY 22, 1964....

Senators approved a bill by Senator Ed Henry of Canton which would allow Madison County to increase its county patrolmen from one to three in the face of expected racial troubles there.

The Senate went into a committee of the whole gave a swift approval to the bill presented by Senator Henry which would permit Madison County to increase its county patrol force from one to three men.

Henry said that the new patrolmen would be deputized and used to help control expected racial demonstrations in Canton, Mississippi, where Negro intergration leaders recently called for a boycott of white merchants.

JANUARY 23, 1964....

Senate gave final approval to House resolution memorializing Congress to defeat the pending civil rights legislation.

FEBRUARY 6, 1964

Senators argued over whether cities should be allowed to impose stiffer penalties on persons who violate their ordinances. Senator Bill Caraway of Leland, had the measure tabled when controversy arose in order to give senators time to prepare amendments.

The bill would allow increasing maximum fines from \$100.00 to \$300 and jail sentences from 30 to 90 days. Caraway said the present limits have "proven inadequate in the difficulties we have had over the state," An apparent reference to racial demonstrations. He said the present system is especially in effective when judges are dealing with repeat offenders.

Several senators questioned him about the right to a trial by jury with the stiffer penalties. Caraway said the cities would object to jury trials in city court because of increased expenses. "They could get a jury trial by appealing to county court," he said.

As more amendments were suggested, Caraway moved to lay the bill on the table subject to call.

FEBRUARY 12, 1964....

The Mississippi Senate rammed through a bill Wednesday, 4-44 making it unlawful for any persons to willfully or maliciously distribute literature calling for trade boycotts.

Senator Ed. Henry of Canton and others offered the measure with Henry terming it the offspring of meeting with four attorney generals and the judiciary committee.

Henry's area of Canton has been hit by civil rights groups calling on Negroes to boycott merchants and businessmen that do not afford Negroes equal opportunity of service and employment.

Senator W.V. Jones of Waynesboro said he felt the bill was unconstitutional on its face and termed it a "with burning bill." Jones said the bill was an infringement on a person's right to freedom of speech. He said, "we can't be putting a bill on the books which will be knocked out on constitutional grounds."

Jones said he was a segregationist, but the boycott bill was, "ambiguous and should not be passed." It was sent to the senate.

FEBRUARY 25, 1964...

Senator Edwin Pittman of Hattiesburg told his upper house colleagues Tuesday they should demand investigation of the presence of five Negroes last week at a University of Mississippi program.

"I hope to find out why the five people were admitted," Pittman said.

He later said he might introduce a resolution calling an investigation or question University officials when they appear with money requests for the next biennium before the Appropriations Committee.

The senate adjourned until after hearing a report from the Municipalities Committee recommending passage of a bill to give cities the right to enforce any needed police regulations "to restrain movements of individuals under certain circumstances."

Backers of the proposal said it would permit enforcement of curfews in recilly troubled times.

FEBRUARY 27, 1964....

The Mississippi House of Representatives approved a Senate bill fixing heavy penalties against persons who print or circulate, willfully or maliciously literature designed to interfere with free trade. It passed 74-32 but not before it became involved in a heated debate over proposed amendments to excuse labor activities from the measure. The bill calls for punishment in prison for ~~not~~ more than six months in the county jail or fining not more than \$500.00 Or both.

Rep. Joe Moss of Hinds County introduced bills Thursday to permit state Penitentiary facilities to be used for municipal prisoners. The two-package bill by Moss and other members of the Hinds County delegation came amid reports that civil rights groups would step up activities in Mississippi.

MARCH 4, 1964....

Rep. Thompson of Clay, had SB1545, a measure making it unlawful to print literature for boycotts, called up and a motion to reconsider it tabled. The act now goes to the governor for his signature.

MARCH 11, 1964....

A bill authored by Rep. Buck Meek of Webster County was approved by the House 72 to 37. Under the bill parents of illegitimate children on second offense may be sterilized in lieu of prison. In calling up this bill Meek cited that there were 8,647 illegitimate non-white births. The bill was held for reconsideration.

A resolution introduced Wednesday in the senate commended Dr. William D. McCain president of the University of Southern Mississippi for upholding the established regulations of the University.

McCain Monday, for the fifth time, refused to allow John Frazier a Negro, to enroll at the Hattisburg institution on the grounds that he had failed to submit his application on time.