

# Mississippi

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## 4 Citizens Report Reprisals After Seeking Registration

Four Negro citizens who have registered or filed applications to register to vote in Sunflower County told of violence and economic reprisals taken against them. They testified before the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission in Jackson.

Jeff Surney and Mrs. Fannie Hamer said they were fired and forced out of their homes, and Mrs. Irene Johnson told of harassment by Ruleville Mayor Dorrrough. Joe McDonald reported that Dorrrough has refused to enter his name on the city's voting list although he is registered and he also testified about a shooting into his home.

### Put Off Plantation

Surney said that he applied to register at Indianola in August, 1962. He stated that a few days later, the owner of the Ruleville plantation where he picked cotton fired him and ordered him and his family, including 9 children, off the land.

He said the owner refused to pay him for 2300 pounds of cotton he and his children had picked. he had been promised

years and had thought that they were completed. However, as he was about to move, the plantation owner took the car and told him that it hadn't been paid for, Mrs. Hamer said.

Mrs. Johnson applied to register in August also. She picked cotton, but has gotten no work since she tried to register.

In September Mayor Dorrrough personally came to shut off her water. When she spoke with him later, he reportedly told her, "No you don't have any justice at all . . . We put you in jail for what we see fit to put you in jail for."

### Shot Into Home

Joe McDonald of Ruleville, who had three Negro voter registration workers living in his home, checked his 1953 registration in August. In September, his home was fired upon.

McDonald reported that police came to investigate the shooting shortly after it occurred even though he had not called them. They had been called by Jack Bennett who lives a few blocks away; his home was also hit.

## Diggs To See Pres. About Delta Situation

### More Registration In Greenwood

Another Greenwood citizen has lost her home and job in the wake of white opposition to the voter registration movement there. Nevertheless, about 20 adult Greenwood citizens have joined students in canvassing to urge other Negroes to register.

Mrs. Fannie Harris reported that when her son Army Lee Jones registered, his name appeared in the local newspaper in accordance with Mississippi state law. Mrs. Harris' landlady, Mrs. Simpson, saw his name there and ordered her

### Firebomb Hits Clarksdale Home; Advisory Comm. Hears Testimony

At 3 a.m. Friday morning, April 12, a fire bomb shattered a picture window and exploded in the house where U. S. Congressman Charles Diggs (D., Mich.) was visiting Clarksdale civic leader Aaron Henry.

Diggs said he would see Pres. Kennedy and Atty. Gen. Kennedy to discuss the situation. April 17 Henry and other Clarksdale citizens told of repeated harassment and intimidation by city police. They testified in Jackson before the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U. S. Civil Rights Commission.

### \$10 Bribe

One man, Charlie Black, reported that a city official had offered him \$10 to "beat the hell" out of four Iowa students who had brought food and