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The following is a transcript of Professor Julin's "Law in the News" broadcast heard over WUOM December 11:

I have just returned from a meeting of some 300 lawyers in Jackson, Mississippi. The subject of the conference was real property—and some very technical aspects of the law, at that. Yet, whenever I had the opportunity to talk informally with the members of the Mississippi Bar I found the subject invariably turned to the University of Mississippi, a Negro student by the name of Meredith and the actions of the Governor of the State, Ross Barnett.

Governor Barnett, as you will undoubtedly recall, did everything within his power—and some would say more—to prevent Meredith's registration at the previously all white university. He did this in the name of a supposed legal doctrine he called interposition.

This doctrine urged by the Governor (who is a lawyer), gives each state the right to reject a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States if the decision encroaches upon matters reserved by the states at the inception of the union.

The Governor now faces both civil and criminal contempt charges for his acts in defying federal court orders directing the admission of Meredith.

I decided while talking to these Mississippi lawyers to find out if, as lawyers, they honestly believed there was any legal basis for the Governor's action. I frankly told them that I have been saying on this program that this doctrine of interposition is a myth. That no governor can place himself above the federal judiciary. That there must be an ultimate authority in these matters that is the federal judiciary and not the judiciary or governors of the several states. I further suggested to them that I wasn't certain I had been able adequately to present the Mississippi legal position to the "Law in the News" listeners.

The reply of most of these Mississippi lawyers was more sophisticated and reasonable than I had expected. Without exception they repudiated and some denounced the Governor's claim—made under cover of the "doctrine of interposition"—to defy the federal judiciary. They stated that no one above or below the Mason-Dixon line could seriously urge the states had some sovereign immunity in the civil rights area.

Yet this reply to my question suggested two further queries. The first—Why had the bar apparently remained silent—if this was the general consensus of lawyers. The matter was a legal as well as sociological problem and still I read of no statement in support of the federal government's legal position from either lawyer or law teacher. Secondly—how could some of the actions of the state judiciary be explained: actions which purported to enjoin federal officers from enforcing the federal decrees.
The second question seems easiest to answer. The judges are elected by the people: in essence by their white constituents; and any member of the state court who—even if properly interpreting the law—refused to stand for segregation and to enter his decrees accordingly might just as well resign from the bench. It seems the state courts had been caught in a political vise.

This "fact of life" indicates why any progress in this civil rights area is most likely to come from the federal bench—from members of the courts who hold life-time appointments. It probably makes the best case possible for the elimination of forcing judges to face the electorate at the polls.

But I pressed—what about the lawyers, the organized bar. Here the local lawyers' answer was somewhat more obscure, but as I understood it, it was that no one wanted to print what the lawyers thought. The press was not, it was indicated, interested in presenting the law in or behind the news. The reason was simple. The law didn't support the governor's last legal stand, interposition. And what Mississippi editor wanted to print that?

Now please don't misunderstand me. I did not find the members of the Mississippi bar with whom I talked particularly in favor of Meredith's registration at the University of Mississippi. That's probably an understatement. Most seemed very much opposed to any move which furthered integration. They even felt the Supreme Court had gone way off base when holding separate but equal no longer to be the law of the land.

Still, once the federal courts had acted in pursuance of school desegregation "with all deliberate speed" they were lawyers first and unhappy Mississippians second.

Lawyers and the citizen on the street were quick to point out that Meredith's registration had cost the federal government two to three million dollars. And "just last Friday he missed a mathematics class." No one's education, a cab driver told me, should cost that much. I assume, however, the federal judiciary and the many members of the attorney general's staff think a good deal more than the education of one Negro is the object of the Mississippi court proceedings.

MUSICAL:

Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3:00 p.m., the music will begin in the Law Club Lounge, followed by a fine Christmas Buffet Supper.

Note: Last year many guests arrived after the program had started. This was very distracting to the musicians and other guests. This year's program is full and carefully timed. No one will be seated during the performance of a number. Please be on time. The good seats go early!

Professors, lawyers, wives and dates all invited.

MISCELLANEOUS MORSELS:

The Reg. Gestae is proud to announce that today's circulation figure (820) exceeds that of the New York Times ... the Phids had elections for next semester's officers: Peter Williamson, President; Rick Riordan, House Manager; Bill Holcomb, Treasurer; Newman Guthrie, Historian; David Dodge, House Clerk ... Remember, classification starts on January 3; the Student Book Store opens January 28, but you can call Gary Selleck at the Phi house prior to then for individual attention ...
AT THE FRAT:

Delts: Gala Christmas (In-) Formal
Saturday night, featuring Dick Johnston
Band and Santa - favors for the ladies
9:30 - 1:30; Brothers $3.00, others $4.00

Tuesday night - traditional Christmas (vacation) Eve
party. Stag or drag; B.Y.O.; Free

Phid: Christmas Party Tuesday night, not Weds. Similar to
Thanksgiving party in every respect . . .

AT THE FLICKS:

Campus - "Les Liaisons Dougerusses"
State - "The Pigeon that Took Rome"
Sunday, "The War Lover"

Cinema Guild - "Journey unto Fear"; "Anna Karenena"

Michigan - "The Manchurian Candidate"

QUADSVILLE QUOTES by Meyer Sniffen

Why is there always a secret singing
When a lawyer cashes in?
Why does a hearse horse snicker
Hauling a lawyer away?
— Carl Sandburg

Law and equity are two things
which God hath joined, but
which man hath put asunder.
— C. C. Colton

"How about a spendthrift trust
without reservation of a power
to revoke?"