Lawmaker ‘Cautioned’ Of Student

OXFORD, Miss. (UPI) — State Rep. Phillip Bryant said Saturday Gov. Ross Barnett had cautioned him more than four months ago that Ole Miss student Bill Barton might be a member of the NAACP.

Bryant said Barton told him he had learned “by competent authority” that Barton, a senior journalism student, was a NAACP member and had taken part in sit-in demonstrations while working on the Atlanta, Ga., Journal last summer.

Barton Friday charged that the White Citizens Council, the State Sovereignty Commission and a “high state official” were using a smear campaign to keep him from being elected editor of the school paper.

Bryant quoted Barnett as saying he “definitely did not” want a member of the NAACP as editor of the campus newspaper. He said he asked the Governor for proof but was told only the report came from competent sources.

In Jackson, Gov. Barnett said he wanted to stay out of the controversy and had nothing to say about Bryant’s statement.

Barnett was asked his reaction to the editorial. “I haven’t read it and I probably won’t read it,” he told United Press International. “You don’t think I read things that Oliver Emmerich writes, do you?”

See STUDENT on Page 7A