Let’s Lock Shields

Four Jacksonians, three whites and a Negro, have filed suit to stop the payment of state funds to the Citizens’ Council.

The men are integrationists. There is no doubt about that. Their suit complains about contributions to the council being made from public funds, and being used for “SUBVERTING AND OPPOSING THE LAW OF THE LAND” against racial “discrimination.”

Part of the charge accuses the Citizens Council of “inciting opposition, both physical and otherwise, to the recent decisions” of federal courts calling for desegregation of New Orleans public schools.

The plaintiffs in the suit are Mississippisans, and thus they are acting like traitors to the South.

What motivated them to commit such a deplorable act we know not.

However, we feel that they have paid inadvertent tribute to the Citizens Council in choosing it as an object of attack.

We have not always agreed with everything the Council has said or done. Nevertheless, in desperate times such as ours, there is a definite need for such an organization.

The need for the Citizens Council will be even greater if the Jacksonians’ suit, by some miscarriage of justice, is decided in such a way as to hamper our state government in its work of defending states’ rights and the Southern way of life.

This would surely be the case if a verdict is handed down prohibiting the use of tax money to fight integration.

Although, as we said before, we do not approve of everything about the Citizens Council, it is the only organization we have outside of state, county, and city government to fight for the Southern way of life.

To carry on any battle, and particularly one against adversaries as powerful as those the South faces, organization is obviously necessary.

Therefore, we say, join your local Citizens Council. If you don’t like everything about it, try to reform it from within. Don’t just sit on the sidelines and criticize.

Contribute to the state Council’s fund drive, now in progress, by mailing your check to Association of Citizens’ Councils, P. O. Box 886, Greenwood, Miss.

The great cause of segregation needs every man and woman — and every dollar that can be spared.