Taxpayers In Mississippi Dig Deep To Assist The Negro Race

PERSONS in position to know estimate that the white race in Mississippi pays approximately 90 percent of all taxes collected for state, county and municipal government.

These tax dollars, converted into benefits, show some very interesting results. During the 1956-57 school session, for example, the state paid $109.99 per Negro child in public schools at a total cost of $23,505,475, while during the 1957-58 school session the state paid $118 per Negro child at a total cost of $23,922,209. Of these millions spent for Negro education, it is figured that the white taxpayers picked up 90 percent of the "check".

Since Mississippi's program started in 1954 to provide equal school facilities, the Education Finance Commission has approved 196 construction projects for Negroes at a cost of $39,576,910.57, while during the same period it approved only 89 construction projects for white children at a cost of $12,100,544.47. The white children received 23.42 percent, while the Negro children received 76.58 percent, and the white taxpayers footed 90 percent of the bill.

**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**

By the time this equalization program is completed, Mississippi's taxpayers will have "coughed up" more than $209,000,000 on school buildings. Based on the present percentage of racial distribution of school construction funds, Negroes will receive over $150,000,000 while the white children will receive less than $50,000,000.

The State Health Department does not compile statistics on racial distribution of public health dollars, but undoubtedly the colored race receives the benefit of the larger portion of such funds.

During the current two-year period, the state will extract from the taxpayers' earnings and then give away in all forms of welfare some $98,327,400. Of this amount, only 35.97 percent or $34,421,187.78 will go to the state's white people, while 64.03 percent or $63,946,212.22 will be given to the state's needy Negroes.

For old age assistance, the state will give away $59,400,000. Of this amount, only 40.70 percent or $24,175,800 will go to the state's needy white people, while 59.30 percent or $35,111,340 will be given to the state's needy Negroes.

For aid to the blind, the state will give away $5,807,400. Of this amount, 42.11 percent or $2,445,496.14 will go to the state's needy white blind people, while 57.56 percent or $3,342,739.44 will be given to the state's needy blind Negroes.

For aid to dependent children, the state will give away $17,000,000. Of this amount, only 27.32 percent or $4,644,400 will go to the state's white children, while 72.68 percent or $12,377,600 will be given to the state's needy Negro children.

For aid to the permanently and totally disabled needy persons, the state will give away $6,120,000. Of this amount, 39.34 percent or $2,407,608 will go to the state's needy disabled white people, while 60.66 percent or $3,712,392 will be given to the state's disabled Negroes.

These figures would seem to be convincing enough that the white taxpayers of Mississippi are paying heavily to assist and advance the Negro.

--gene wirth