CITIZENS COUNCILS

While other Southern states move toward at least token desegregation, in Mississippi the die-hard white-supremacists are firmly in control.

By HODDING CARTER III

GREENVILLE, Miss.

The roll-call of Southern communities which have begun at least token public-school integration in response to Federal court pressure was significantly lengthened this fall with the peaceful desegregation of schools in Dallas, Memphis and Athens, Ga. In the last two cities, massive resistance on the secondary school level was met with Federal court intervention; in Athens, Georgia, the local white citizens formed the Citizens Council to stiffen rather than crumble.

But one state, which shares with Arkansas and South Carolina distinction of maintaining total segregation at all levels in the public schools, almost no signs of yielding to the pressure, is Mississippi. After seven years of mounting pressure, it is virtually impossible to find any public manifestations of the fatalism many whites are privately expressing.

As the pressure has intensified, in fact, Mississippi resistance has tended to stiffen rather than crumble. It is the one Southern state which showed no signs of yielding to a process at all levels. The U.S. District Court in the South Central city of Greenville, after considering the large number of motions and briefs presented by the Justice Department, has issued the classic Federal court order in the desegregation of the public schools, in the state's capital city. But one state, which shares with Arkansas and South Carolina distinction of maintaining total segregation at all levels in the public schools, almost no signs of yielding to the pressure, is Mississippi. After seven years of mounting pressure, it is virtually impossible to find any public manifestations of the fatalism many whites are privately expressing.

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