FAR more important to the Council's strength and stability, and better illustrative of its grip on the state government, was the decision by the State Sovereignty Commission in late 1956 to donate $50,000 a month from state tax money to support the Council's radio and television programs, Citizens Council Forum. The membership of the commission, formed by the Legislature in 1956 "to protect the sovereignty of the state of Mississippi," include the Governor, and are nearly to a man Council members.

The grant, combined with a lump-sum donation of $35,000, has brought the Council nearly $100,000 from the public treasury. Although an internal power struggle in the Sovereignty Commission resulted in a $500-a-month cut in the donation, no one seriously believes the commission will eliminate it altogether in the near future.

There are many other examples of the Council's influence in the state government. Perhaps most significant is the fact that William Simmons, editor of the Council's newspaper and administrator of the state council association, has become a constant companion of Governor Barnett, travelling with him when he makes out-of-state talks (many of which Simmons reportedly writes) and sitting in as "observer" at most meetings of the Sovereignty Commission.

During the last regular session of the Legislature in 1960, that body acted as little more than a rubber-stamp for bills which had Council endorsement. One gave local Negro organizations the right to secede from their parent churches, taking church property with them, if they found themselves in conflict with the national denominations' doctrines. It was passed despite claims that it violated the constitutional separation of church and state. And that Governor Barnett's major appointments were of men who were on the Council's board.

Individual Counties vary from town to town, but the general pattern is much the same. (Continued on Page 125)

Farther south, Negroes have shown signs of yielding to a process most white Southerners have grudgingly begun to accept as inevitable. The difficulties of collecting dues to the formulation of a plan to deal with a local white or Negro "trouble-maker." One or two hootenays will jump up and let loom with impassioned speeches railing for radical and immediate action—usually a midnight call on the offender. The conservatives then will make themselves heard, calm down the fire-brands and soothe the propo- sals.

As a result of the perpetu-ation of conservative control, no act of racial violence in Mississippi has ever been di-rectly connected to the Citi-zens Council. Those incidents that have occurred may be in-directly traceable to the cli-mate engendered by the Coun-cil, but it is a theoretical re-lationship. The Council has found it doesn’t need to oper-ate that way to get results.

Initially, the fear of economic pressure against discharging whites and Negroes was the main weapon, and to some ex-tent it is still used, particular-ly against Negroes. But as the Council has developed it has found that the isolation of moderate and liberal whites from the rest of the white community and the complete destruction of interracial com-munication are infinitely more productive and far easier to accomplish.

To a degree which is hard to convey, a number of people who do not live in Mississippi, the Citizens Council has managed to divert the enmity of most white Mississippians for inte-gration into a mold which in-cludes the total rejection of any deviation from the status quo. Blind adherence to "our way of life" has been the re-frm of the ClitUaena's Council's