“the Polish-Black Encounter,” Waterman stared out at the audience for a while and then he said: “While the rest of the speakers were talking, I have been asleep.” A murmur of indignation rippled through the crowd, but it stopped as Waterman continued: “Actually, what I mean is this—I recently took a course in sensitivity training, and I learned to close my eyes while people are talking so that I hear only what is being said and not who is saying it. I have been doing that today, and I have not heard Kazimierz Olejarczyk, or Joseph Wytrwal, or Dr. Chrypsinski. No. On the contrary, I have heard Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael, and Martin Luther King.”

“These were some pretty conservative folks,” Waterman recalled later. “And they were really stunned. But I think it made them think a little because since then a number of them have come up to me and said, ‘You know, we are still talking about that speech you made, and we were very impressed. I guess we have more in common than we had realized before.’ If we can get more people thinking like that, we may be able to get somewhere.”

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**Mississippi patrol sued**

A federal district court judge in Biloxi, Miss., has set May 19 for a trial of charges by two black men that they have been denied the right to apply for positions with the Mississippi Highway Patrol because of their race. Judge Walter L. Nixon Jr., in denying a motion by state officials to dismiss the charges, ruled that “while there is no constitutional right as such to public employment, there does exist a constitutional right to be free from unreasonable discriminatory practices with respect to such employment.” The two black men, Willie L. Morrow and Jerome Mangum, said they tried on three different dates in June of 1970 to obtain application forms from Charlie Snodgrass, the highway patrol’s personnel officer. They said Snodgrass refused to give them the forms.

Frank R. Parker, an attorney for the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, presented in behalf of Morrow and Mangum affidavits from two white men who said they had encountered no difficulty when they inquired about applications for employment with the highway patrol. One of the men, Gary Brown, was given an application in late May or early June of 1970. The other—Edwin N. Williams, a correspondent for the Greenville Delta Democrat-Times—was told on the phone that “all you have to do is come to headquarters and get an application and fill it out.”

An RRIC survey of blacks on state police forces (Race Relations Reporter No. 21, Dec. 9, 1970) showed that no more than 250 of the nation’s 40,000 state policemen are black. Mississippi was one of 10 states in that survey that had no black troopers. Judge Nixon, in denying the motion to dismiss, said, “It is unconstrued that of the approximately 360 uniformed officers in the Mississippi Highway Patrol, all are white, and there has never been a black patrolman serving as a uniformed officer in the history of the Patrol.”

The Mississippi suit is a class action covering “all qualified Negroes who have applied or will in the future apply for employment” with the highway patrol.

**Inside This Issue**

**The Richmond, Va., school board has asked a federal judge to create one district out of three. The ending of foundation support threatens several black studies programs. . . . White ethnics and blacks in Detroit have joined in an alliance. . . . And a federal judge has ordered a barber school to admit both races as students. . . .**