Oxford, Miss., Sept. 29 --- The key which the Justice Department must use to unlock the doors of Ole Miss for Negro James Meredith may well be one drawn gun.

And after two weeks of hoopalaa here and at Jackson, this bothers many Mississippi lawmen, who themselves carry guns and say they believe in segregation strong enough to use them.

Despite denials by both Attorney General Robert Kennedy and state officials that a compromise has been reached, rumors still that some agreement has been made between the Justice Department and Gov. Ross Barnett concerning the Meredith case.

credence.

Some credence is given to the rumors by reports circulated among peace officers that all marshals must do to bring Meredith onto the Ole Miss campus is to "pull a gun."

Lt. Gov. Paul Johnson, who addressed approximately 100 sheriffs, deputies, and other peace officers Thursday afternoon shortly before Meredith and an escort of U.S. marshals were to have arrived at Oxford, instructed the lawmen to let the marshals pass if they drew guns.  State Highway Patrolmen received similar instructions.

"We will have then won our fight," Johnson was quoted as saying to sheriffs.