OXFORD, Miss.—Along with hundreds of uniformed law officials, the tree-shaded University of Mississippi campus here is dotted with small posters which blaze out in big red letters:

WELCOME TO OLE MISS (all caps)

Everybody Speaks (caps and lower case)

This little exhortation—a campus tradition—is supposed to encourage students and faculty members to greet each other warmly and help get the new school year off to the proper start. But for many, the signs are currently unheeded. With Ole Miss the focal point of a tense Federal-state integration struggle, Mississippi's segregationist Gov. Ross Barnett has slapped a muzzle on professors and administrative officials in hopes of choking off any campus criticism of his battle tactics.

And perhaps wisely so. At a time when the governor is seeking unanimous support in his fight to maintain the lily-white status of the state's leading school, he can hardly afford criticism from Ole Miss itself. The proud old institution occupies a spot in the heart of the electorate that few state universities can boast. With federal officials set for a determined bid to register Negro student James H. Meredith today (Monday) or tomorrow, about the only course remaining open to Gov. Barnett—besides capitulation—is to close the university. But such a move could, for the first time, bring forth a clamor from moderate forces in this segregation stronghold.

Already, despite the Barnett warning, there's underway an organized movement to declare the faculty's support for the federal integration decree. This afternoon the question is scheduled to come before a meeting of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

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