

Mississippi Lawmakers Push Secret Red Hunt

P.M. 8/17/64
Staff Reporter

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 16 (AP) — A hearing has been held or announced. While charges of Communist influence in the civil rights summer project here continue to float around the State, a legislative committee is investigating the situation on a strictly secret basis.

The committee was formed last month after U. S. Sen. James O. Eastland declared that "second-generation agitators" were prominent in the summer project. The epithet referred to the sons and daughters of persons Eastland identified as "oldtime Communists."

The six-member legislative committee has hired a team of investigators, including three lawyers. It has full subpoena powers. So far no public hearing has been held or announced.

Many of the summer project volunteers will be leaving at the end of this month, and committee Chairman George Yarbrough, a State senator from Red Banks, says, "I wouldn't cry too much if they would all leave."

But Yarbrough says the investigation will be "very thorough" and indicated that the committee's report will not be released until after most of the volunteers have gone.

Spokesmen for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), which is directing the summer project here, have consistently denied that there is any Communist influence in the project.