Intolerance Kills Klan

The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports a spectacular drop in Ku Klux Klan membership in Mississippi in the last four years.

In 1964, the various Klans could claim a combined membership of 10,000 in Mississippi; today, however, the white terrorist organizations would be hard pressed to muster 200 members, says Roy K. Moore, special agent in charge of the Jackson FBI office.

The FBI in Jackson, reinforced under orders of President Johnson, can take much of the credit for the dwindling KKK membership. Infiltration of the terrorist organizations by FBI operatives undoubtedly has contributed to disarray in klavern and klatch and hurt recruiting.

A series of convictions and stiff sentences meted out to Klansmen in federal and state courts also have enabled would-be terrorists or self-styled "guerrilla fighters" to contemplate the handwriting on the wall.

In the main, however, the intolerant Klan owes its decline to another kind of intolerance. It is the intolerance of Mississippi community leaders and local and state officials who will no longer tolerate the outrageous barbarism which is the cowardly nightrider's stock in trade.

Where such enlightened intolerance is found, the barbaric intolerance of Klansmen and their like always will disappear.