

U.S. Suit Claims Klan Interferes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department charged a Ku Klux Klan unit Thursday with intimidating and punishing Negroes and interfering with school desegregation in Crenshaw County, Ala.

The department said it filed a civil suit against the Crenshaw County unit of the United Klans of America, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Inc. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Montgomery, Ala. and seeks an injunction to prohibit these practices.

The Klan unit was said to have harassed, threatened, intimidated, coerced and punished Negroes who exercised rights set forth in a court's school desegregation order. The harassment was said to have spread to the Negroes' employers, creditors and business associates.

Named in the suit with the Klan unit were C. D. "Durwood" McLeod, the unit's exalted cyclops, or president; John William Moody, its kligrapp and klabee, or secretary and treasurer; and seven other persons: F. Brown Franklin, J. D. "Buddy" Smyth Jr., H. E. Browder, Barney Furr, M. O. Bodiford, John M. Wilson and Grady Mount.