

Bilbo Urges Mississippi Men to Employ 'Any Means' to Bar Negroes From Voting

JACKSON, Miss., June 22 (U.P.)—Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi demanded tonight that the "red-blooded Anglo-Saxon" men of Mississippi bar Negroes from voting. His demand came a few hours after a Negro Army veteran charged that he had been beaten and flogged by four white men when he sought to register.

In one of his strongest "white supremacy" statements of his current campaign for renomination, Senator Bilbo said that if a few Negroes vote in the Democratic primary this year, more would vote in 1947, "and from then on it will grow into a mighty surge."

He called on every "red-blooded Anglo-Saxon man in Mississippi to resort to any means to keep hundreds of Negroes from the polls in the July 2 primary."

"And if you don't know what that means, you are just not up on your persuasive measures," Mr. Bilbo added.

Mr. Bilbo's speech came after Etoy Fletcher, Army veteran attending Jackson College, a school for Negroes, under the GI Bill of Rights, charged in an affidavit that he had been seized, flogged and beaten at Brandon on June 6 when

he attempted unsuccessfully to register. His charge was made in an affidavit made public by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in New York.

In his speech, which was broadcast, Mr. Bilbo said that the white people of Mississippi were sleeping on a volcano "and it is up to the red-blooded men to do something about it. The white men of this State have a right to resort to any means at their command to stop it."

It said that the Negro veteran, who served twenty-three months in the South Pacific, went to the Circuit clerk at Brandon on June 6 and asked to be allowed to register. He allegedly was directed to "the gentleman in charge of veterans affairs," on the second floor of the court house, where he was told to "get out."

After he left, he said, four men seized him, carried him to some woods, stripped him and flogged him with a heavy wire cable, and threatened him with death if he made another attempt to register.

The Sheriff's office at Brandon and the Circuit clerk denied today any knowledge of the affair.