

U.S. HITS ALABAMA EATERIES

WASHINGTON--The Department of Justice last week asked the U.S. District Court at Birmingham, Ala., to order 15 eating places at Tuscaloosa, Ala., to end discrimination against Negroes.

The suit was the first filed by the department to enforce the public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy acted under Section 206(A) of the act, which gives him authority to bring a civil suit when he has reasonable cause to believe there is "a pattern or practice of resistance" to the equal treatment in public accommodations called for by the law.

The section is the only authority the Attorney General has under the act to initiate suit to enforce the ban on discrimination in public accommodations. It is the result of a compromise worked out in conferences between Justice Department officials and Senate minority leader, Everett Dirksen of Illinois. Senator Dirksen sought to limit the authority of the Attorney General to start such proceedings on his own initiative.

TWO OTHER SUITS have been filed to test the Civil Rights Act.

One was started by the Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc., only two hours and 10 minutes after President Johnson had signed the law July 2. The Atlanta motel asked the United States district court to declare the public-accommodations section of the law unconstitutional. In a counterclaim, the Justice Department asked that the motel's complaint be dismissed and that the motel be ordered to serve Negroes.

The second suit was filed by three Negroes against the Pickrick Restaurant in Atlanta and its owner, Lester B. Maddox. On July 3, the three Negroes asked for service at the restaurant and were chased away at gunpoint by Maddox. The Attorney General is an intervenor on behalf of the three Negroes in this action.

In both of these cases, the act has been upheld by a three-judge Federal District Court. Both the restaurant and the motel have announced plans to appeal to the Supreme Court.

IN A RELATED CASE, the Justice Department is proceeding against three white Mississippi residents who allegedly beat a Negro in an effort to keep him from going to a formerly all-white theater. This action was brought under an old statute prohibiting conspiracies to deny anyone the benefit of a Federal law--in this case, the Civil Rights Act.

Last week's action--the first to be started directly under the Civil Rights Act by the Justice Department on its own initiative--covers virtually every sizable restaurant and lunch counter in Tuscaloosa except a hotel restaurant and a cafeteria that dropped their racial bars after the act had become effective.

The Government's complaint charged 26 defendants--21 individuals and five corporations that operate the 15 eating places--with follow-

ing "the policy and practice, in the operation of their respective restaurants and lunch counters, of discriminating against Negroes by refusing to sell food for consumption on the premises and to provide service to Negroes on the same basis as they sell food and provide service to non-Negro persons."

The court order sought by the Justice Department would prohibit the defendants from refusing to admit and serve Negroes.

STEREO TRIO AT RUBEN'S

RUBEN'S SUPPER CLUB at 'H' and Owens is currently presenting the amazing Abdul Karim and his Stereo Three. Abdul's organ magic is backed by Mickey De Carlo on drums and our own local saxsation, Willie Perry.

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CHICAGO LAUNCHES STUDENT AID PLAN

CHICAGO--Seven Chicago area business firms and Roosevelt University have announced the establishment of a work and study scholarship program designed primarily for Negro students.

The scholarship winners will hold part-time jobs during the academic year and full-time jobs summers with the firms while attending Roosevelt. After the students are graduated they may become employees of the firms.

The businesses sponsoring the program are The Inland Steel company, Science Research Associates, Chicago Title and Trust company, Commonwealth Edison company, Stone Container Corp., and Montgomery Ward & Co., all of Chicago, and Julian Laboratories Inc., Franklin Park.

Eight Chicago high school graduates were named as recipients of the first scholarships.

The program differs from ordinary scholarship efforts, said Dr. Robert J. Pitchell, Roosevelt University president, in tying together employment and opportunities to attend college.

The companies involved will benefit, he said, by having the chance to add to their staffs well trained university graduates who from the start of their careers will have a working knowledge of the firms which employ them.

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