

TWO ALABAMA NEGROES ELECTED

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Equal representation for all their constituents regardless of race has been pledged by the first two Negroes elected to public office over white opponents in Alabama since Reconstruction Days.

Dr. Stanley Hugh Smith, a college professor, and the Rev. K. L. Buford, pastor of a local church, made that promise following their election to the Tuskegee City Council.

Negro voters also contributed to the victory of used car dealer Charles M. Keever over Mayor Howard Rutherford, who was seeking a second four-year term. Keever received strong support from Negro leaders and won over Rutherford by 943 to 732. Both are white.

Rev. Buford was a leading figure in a voter registration drive among the predominantly colored population of Macon County which gave

Negroes a voting majority in both Tuskegee and the county. He defeated incumbent Dr. Riley Lumpkin by 918-732. Dr. Smith, a member of the Tuskegee Institute faculty, was elected by a approximately the same margin in a runoff contest.

(KILLERS, from page 1)

lowing words: "Regardless of what you have heard or said about me, I'm innocent." He said he had nothing more to say about the case.

Killen, a gaunt, bald 38-year-old fundamentalist preacher, arrived at the hearing site in a white convertible with a Confederate flag on the front bumper. Killen had previously told reporters in Philadelphia he had no connection with the case and denied membership in any terrorist organization. However, he said he believed that the "Americans for the Preservation of the White Race", a militant racist organization, was doing good work and that he would join if he had the opportunity.

United States attorneys were known to be presenting evidence in several instances of racial violence in southern Mississippi in order to show a pattern of harassment and intimidation of Negroes.

Included was the abduction and harassment of a young Negro, Wilmer Jones, in Philadelphia a few days before the burning of the Mount Zion Baptist Church on June 16 and the beating of several church members by a white mob that allegedly included men in police uniforms.

JONES WAS REPORTED to have been picked up by the police and turned over to a gang of whites, who threatened him and ran him out of town. Jones, now in the armed service, was visiting his mother in Philadelphia at the time, and reportedly aroused suspicion because he was wearing a goatee. He said he finally convinced his abductors he was not a civil rights worker.

While investigating the deaths of the three civil rights workers, FBI agents reportedly brought Jones back to Philadelphia, put a cardboard box over his head with eye-slits, and motored him around town while he identified his abductors.

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