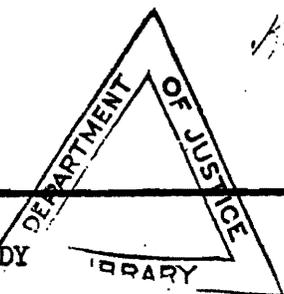


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Department of Justice



STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE ROBERT F. KENNEDY
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
MAY 24, 1961

A very difficult condition exists now in the States of Mississippi and Alabama. Besides the groups of "Freedom Riders" traveling through these States, there are curiosity seekers, publicity seekers and others who are seeking to serve their own causes, as well as many persons who are traveling because they must use the interstate carriers to reach their destination.

In this confused situation, there is increasing possibility that innocent persons may be injured. A mob asks no questions.

The Alabama and Mississippi law enforcement officials are meeting the test today, but their job is becoming increasingly difficult.

A cooling off period is needed. It would be wise for those traveling through these two States to delay their trips until the present state of confusion and danger has passed and an atmosphere of reason and normalcy has been restored.