

## ON BURNELL MACK, JACKSON STATE AND THE STANFORD NATION

During the past week, there has been much said and written about why the reaction to the murder of six black men in Georgia and two more in Mississippi has not been nearly as strong as the reaction to the murder of four white people in Ohio a week earlier. The disparity between the reactions to the black murders on the one hand and to the white murders on the other has been correctly attributed to simple, old-fashioned racism - the stubborn residual feeling in the guts of even the most "liberal" white Americans that somehow the loss of a black life is just not as outrageous as the loss of a white life. There was another fact about the Jackson and Augusta murders, however, which made it easier for the white liberals' consciences to remain comfortably asleep. This is the fact that the murders occurred in the South, which American liberals have traditionally regarded as an unreconstructed breakaway state. To the liberals, the states of the old Confederacy comprise Another Country, in which the natives indulge in all sorts of barbarous customs which, although deplorable, have essentially no more to do with the real USA than do the practices of some head-hunting, cannibalistic tribe in the Amazon Jungle.

It is apparent how valuable this attitude is to the liberals in their desperate struggle to avoid having to take a long, hard look at racism as an American phenomenon; that is, at their very own racism. Nevertheless, it is difficult to understand how it has been possible for them to maintain this fiction in the face of the events of the past five years or so, since the "civil rights" movement moved north. Are they not aware that the most massive slaughters of black people in this nation's history have taken place, not in Montgomery, Birmingham or Atlanta, but in Watts, Newark and Detroit? Have they not read The Algiers Motel Incident, in which a white author with no official connection to the movement at all proves, dispassionately and without a trace of rhetoric, that the statement "Detroit is as bad as Mississippi" is literally true? Most importantly, do the liberals know nothing about the recent history of the Black Panther Party? The nightriding mob that murdered Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago last December wore blue uniforms rather than white sheets, but were otherwise indistinguishable from their Dixie allies. In fact, the Chicago klansmen may have taught the southerners a thing or two. As Nicholas Von Hoffman said in the Chronicle last Friday, referring to the Augusta - Jackson murders, "The police in two southern cities have emulated the northern police; they've gotten the word the lid is off, and it's okay to shoot Black people like they do up in Illinois." Dixie and Amerika may in fact be two nations, but it is obvious that they have more in common than the English language and the Interstate Highway System.

There are some white people living in what used to be the "United" States, however, who would not consider themselves to be citizens either of Dixie or of Amerika. Perhaps they have a right to regard unrestrained, brutal racism as the exotic custom of certain foreign territories. But last December, only a few days after the Chicago police assassinated Hampton and Clark, a black youth was murdered at Altamont by a few dozen Hells Angels while a quarter-million of the legions of the super-liberated looked on. Less than six months after its birth, the Woodstock Nation joined Dixie, Amerika, South Africa and Rhodesia in the proud ranks of countries where lynching is allowed.

Stanford, too, is a nation. It declared itself an independent, sovereign state by an overwhelming vote at a mass meeting held on May 6, 1970. If Dixie, Amerika and the Woodstock Nation are all mutually indistinguishable with regard to racism, how about the newly-created Stanford Nation? Although it can still proudly claim that it has never, in all its proud three-week history, experienced a lynching, the picture is not bright. Black immigration is restricted to a small trickle, and no very serious, concrete proposals to change this situation in the near future (i.e. September) have been made. The Stanford police show no signs of giving up their old habit of hassling black kids of high school age who cross the border on the weekends. In fact, an increase in this behaviour can probably be expected with the coming of summer. Moreover, a couple of incidents which occurred during the last few months of Stanford's colonial history