

# MAGAZINE WEEK

by Sherwood Ross

They went after Martin Luther King. They went after Julian Bond. They went after Charles Evers. They went after Aaron Henry.

Name a prominent black civil rights leader in the South and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which has yet to collect a dime of ex-President Nixon's outstanding debt -- has likely gone after him.

Supposedly, the IRS is sworn to enforce the tax laws

impartially. But in fact, according to the current issue of THE NATION magazine, it is blinded by an intense zeal to work over the South's right-doers.

You didn't have to commit a crime to have IRS pounding on your door. No, sir. All you had to do was be the white editor of a Mississippi newspaper that endorsed the 1954 Supreme Court desegregation ruling. That's

when the late Hodding Carter was suddenly audited, not before.

And his son tells of being audited every single year after that until 1972, when his father died. 'We always assumed it was harassment, but there was no way to prove it. Reputable accountants have always handled our books. We never had to pay adjustments, but, God, what a nuisance,' Hodding Carter III said.

The IRS likes to reassure the public that the chances of being audited on income tax returns are about 1 in 50. But eight black elected officials from Georgia suddenly got audited, as did the heads of the NAACP in Alabama and Mississippi.

"In the last three years alone, more than 50 prominent members of black-liberal alliances in Deep South states have been audited or

investigated, lied to, harassed, divested of many dollars in attorney's or accountants' fees," writes author Jason Berry in THE NATION. He says, "Civil rights activists were lumped with mobsters and racketeers, traditional IRS foes" on the IRS hit list. "What John Dean wanted to do -- use the IRS to harass political enemies -- was actually being done in the South well before Dean got his White House job."

One black lady legislator from Atlanta was told by a secretary in the IRS that the agency was auditing "all our black politicians." The solon won her fight -- the IRS didn't take her \$14 adjustment fee. But that didn't make any difference. She had lost time and money coming in to fight the Feds.

Adds U. W. Clemon, an Alabama state senator who has



RUBY S. MURCHISON, A SCHOOL MARM FOR 22 years says students today are much smarter at an earlier age. What she says is worth listening to. Mrs. Murchison, of Fayetteville, is this year's national Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Murchison is seen with some of her students in Fayetteville's Washington Drive Junior High School. (UPI).

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