

PRESS OFFICER: DOUGLAS A. BUSHY

DETROIT, Sept. 16.--After the sentencing of the 15 Episcopal priests to four months' imprisonment in Mississippi, the Rt. Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, Presiding Bishop, made this statement:

"The Prayer Pilgrimage was sponsored by ESCRU (the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity), an unofficial organization of the Episcopal Church.

"I have no question at all about the motives of the men who went on the pilgrimage. It was their intention to bear witness to their Christian convictions about justice for all people in this land.

"The General Convention of 1958 passed this resolution: 'We call upon all persons, especially members of our Church, to work together, in charity and forbearance, towards the establishment without racial discrimination of full opportunities in fields such as education, housing, employment and public accommodations.'

"These men have chosen the Prayer Pilgrimage as a means of bringing this stated position of the Church before our people. They are doing the right as they see the right. Whether they have chosen the right way to bear witness to their convictions, time alone will tell."