

'Freedom Rider' Barred—From Jail

Special Post Correspondent

Jackson, Miss., July 31—Widjonarko Tjokroadisumarto wanted to be a Freedom Rider, but he failed. The cops just wouldn't arrest him.

For one thing, since he's of the Mongolian race, police can't decide whether he violates the law when he goes into the white waiting room or when he enters the Negro waiting room.

For another, the 24-year-old Indonesian exchange student is

the son of the former Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan. Police refused to arrest him, along with eight other new arrivals, "as a courtesy because he is a visitor to this country."

The dark-skinned "Wee-Jo," as his American buddies call him, decided to join a group of Freedom Riders because he was sympathetic to their motives and methods and wanted to observe their attempts to solve a social problem.

"I do not intend to change Mississippi customs," he said. "That's for Mississippians to do. In my opinion, the customs of segregation and discrimination are wrong, ethically and otherwise."

Wee-Jo is working on his Master's degree in economics at University of Washington at Seattle.

He said he was notified by the Indonesian Embassy that the U. S. State Dept. didn't want

him to make the bus ride to Jackson. But he wired back that the trip was neither illegal nor political because of the Supreme Court ruling on interstate travel and President Kennedy's opinion on the individual's right to travel.

"There was no solid ground for the State Dept. to prevent my trip," he said.

Police here were advised before his arrival that his father was Ambassador to Pakistan

until a month ago and charge d'affaires of the Indonesian Embassy in Manila from 1953 to 1957.

Wee-Jo, who plans now to return to Seattle, said:

"In the United States, the rights of individuals guaranteed in the Constitution certainly are not provided in all sections. This country must take a second look before it crusades for democracy and equality all over the world."

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Two Englewood Freedom Riders Are Recognized

ENGLEWOOD — The two Freedom Riders from Englewood who spent 40 days in a Mississippi jail were applauded at a meeting of the Mayor and Common Council Tuesday night.

Mrs. Barbara Kay and Byron Back, who will also have a large part in the Freedom Riders Rally at the Unitarian Church in Paramus Saturday night with Charles C. Parlin Sr. of Englewood conducting it, were asked to stand at the meeting.

At that time Mayor Austin N. Volk announced that Oct. 21 had been proclaimed Freedom Riders Day and urged attendance at the rally in recognition of the courage of the riders. They were presented by Arnold Brown who expressed appreciation for the recognition.

The Rev. Harry Chase of First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. James A. Mitchell of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Rev. Walker Taylor of Galilee Methodist Church and Rabbi Irwin Blank of Temple Sinai, are among the sponsors of the rally.

The appeal for big attendance Saturday night urges residents "to register their confidence in the FreedomRider and Sit-In movement as a step towards true democracy." They declare that the Freedom Riders have dramatized conditions in the south and gained respect for the sincerity and purpose of the integrationists.

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Council Praises Freedom Riders, Introduces Them

Englewood — Two residents who were Freedom Riders were lauded Tuesday night at the Common Council meeting.

The two, Mrs. Barbara Kay and Byron Baer, were given a round of applause when they were introduced at the meeting.

Arnold Brown, vice-president of the Urban League, in praising them said it was incumbent on all residents to make efforts towards upholding the dignity of man.

Mayor Austin N. Volk issued a proclamation urging residents to participate in Freedom Riders Day on Sunday in Paramus. He noted that Charles Parlin Sr., a local resident and widely known Methodist layman, is chairman for the day.

Strange Courtesy Of Mississippi Police

Widjonarko Tjokroadisumarto (Wee-jo for short) planned to observe his 24th birthday by getting arrested in Jackson, Miss., as a freedom rider. But his plans did not work. Jackson's chief of detectives, M. B. Pierce, told Wee-jo he was being given a pass "as a courtesy because he was a visitor to this country."

Of course, Wee-jo's offense was a little less than clearcut. A Mongolian from Indonesia, he had gone into the Negro waiting room. The Jackson bus depot has no room reserved for Mongolians. Police hardly knew how to answer Wee-jo's question as to which room he should have entered. In a further expression of gallantry, they forfeited an opportunity to jail a blind woman from New York city.

Now if Jackson authorities can just bring themselves to show the same courtesy to American citizens as to Indonesian visitors, and to those with vision as to the blind, the Mississippi capital can calm down.

—Chicago Tribune

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Aug. 1961

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Bergen Man Faces Trial With Other White Riders

Among Eight Arrested At Jackson, Miss., Bus Terminal; Hearing Set For Today

(The Associated Press)

7/31/61

Byron Baer, 31, of Englewood, was one of eight white freedom riders due to go on trial today in Jackson, Miss. He was one of a group arrested on charges of breach of the peace Saturday for attempting to desegrate the Negro waiting room of a Jackson bus terminal.

BEACH IS INTEGRATED

Police refused to charge two members of the group, an Indonesian exchange student and a blind woman.

Baer lives at 135 Belmont Street.

Peaceful integration has come to a traditionally white beach in Chicago after 3 week-ends of antagonism among police, bathers and wade in demonstrators.

Some 65 Negro and white demonstrators sat on the sand and talked yesterday in their fourth consecutive integration attempt at the beach. A few went swimming.

Several persons were arrested on disorderly conduct charges in the previous demonstrations, and a police detachment of 200 patrolmen stood guard as the integrationists congregated yesterday.

Beach guards estimated that the hot sunny weather attracted about 30,000 bathers to the beach, and about 300 gathered to watch the wade in demonstrators. But there was no shouting and no arrests. The demonstration broke up after about 3 hours.

In Dallas, Tex., integration has come to a number of downtown eating places as a prelude to public school desegregation planned for this fall. There were no demonstrations, and the decision to serve Negroes came after plans were prepared by a group of seven Negro and seven white civic leaders.

Citizens of Yorktown, Tex., voted 166 to 64 to integrate their schools. The board of education called the referendum after the State Education Agency said improvements would have to be made at the district's Negro school.

Extra policemen patrolled New York's Harlem over the week-end after more than 1,000 residents of the predominantly Negro area and 150 policemen were involved in scattered disorders Friday night. Detectives said they found no organized pattern in the outbreaks, and no major incidents were reported Saturday or yesterday.

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