

**WITNESS IN  
PHILADELPHIA**  
by Florence Mars  
La. State Univ., 1977  
296 pp. \$10.  
L of C 76-50660  
ISBN 0-8071-0265-2

To Philadelphia, Mississippi, 1964 brought a summer of violence. Just outside the town, the Ku Klux Klan, protected by the police, brutally executed three young civil-rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner. Most townspeople, both the "white trash" and the genteel families who controlled the churches, businesses, and politics, rallied behind the sheriff they had elected "to keep the niggers of Neshoba County in their place." But one woman in her early 40s and a small circle of her friends, at great personal cost to themselves, resisted the poll-tax crowd to aid the FBI investigation and testify against the Klansmen. In 1967, a jury presided over by a Mississippi judge found eight defendants guilty of conspiracy to commit murder—the first time a jury in the state had returned a guilty verdict in a major civil-rights case since Reconstruction. Florence Mars's moving account of how she stood against her town and the county in which eight of her great-grandparents were buried helps to explain why it was possible in the '60s for the Old South to become the New South.

—James J. Lang

**IN SEARCH OF THE CON-  
STITUTION: Reflections on  
State and Society in Britain**  
by Nevil Johnson  
Pergamon, 1977  
239 pp. \$12  
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ISBN 0-08-021379-0

Oxford University's Nevil Johnson makes a strong case that the key problems facing Britain today are constitutional rather than political. Issues such as Scottish self-rule or the future of the welfare state can only be resolved after re-examination and restatement of the fundamental ideas about civil rights and social objectives that underpin British political life. Two world wars and an increasingly complex society have eroded tacit understandings reached over one hundred years ago. A new statement of rights is needed, Johnson believes, perhaps as a formal Bill of Rights, guaranteeing judicial review of Acts of Parliament. He reports that Britons are now seriously discussing the idea. Well-organized and clearly written, this book gives the American reader a fresh perspective on current British problems while reviving the art of constitutional thought and argument.

—Robert Hawkins ('76)