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the farmer's poultry. If the hawk could grip the smaller bird in its talons it would be too bad, but the martin operates like a Malayan or Indo-Chinese guerrilla and worsts the enemy despite his vastly more formidable weapons.

Segregation Ruling Will Affect More Than Schools

THE grief that an unfavorable Supreme Court decision on segregation this year may cause Alabama is probably not well understood yet. The time is at hand to brace for a reverberating blow.

The truth is, we Alabamians have become dulled to these civil rights crises because there have been so many since 1948, commencing with the Truman civil rights explosion.

After all this time, the tide in Congress is now running with the South.

But the struggle in the courts is not abated. The cases pending before the court now test the power of a state to maintain segregated schools if they are "equal". If the court rules that segregation violates the Constitution despite the equality of the separate schools for white and colored, that is going to cause the Lord-knows-what.

But such a decision would presumably affect more than Alabama's schools. Presumably it would likewise affect other public facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, golf courses, auditoriums, public toilets, community houses and athletic stadiums.

City officials in Alabama are quite concerned. If there must be overnight equalizing of these facilities under the terms of the court's ruling, a tremendous and probably impossible expenditure of public funds will be called for. If segregation is destroyed by the court's ruling, the difficulties to be encountered in Alabama facilities are too obvious to require review.

The cities are already the low man on the totem pole insofar as revenues are concerned since the federal government and the state have preempted so many tax sources. An abrupt demand for equalization of these facilities means a discussion of new tax revenues for Alabama cities.

The truth is, of course, that we have been inexcusably laggard in providing colored citizens with equal public facilities. This is their unchallengeable due.

But even when this is conceded, the question of where the money is to come from is not answered.

The day of reckoning is evidently approaching with long swift strides. The court postponed its ruling until December, but its decision will not be long in coming.

Its nature and its mode of application cannot be foretold. But we do know that the ruling, however it goes, involves very heavy expenditures for equalization (such as we now witness in South Carolina) and the tranquillity of race relations.