

MISSISSIPPI

Freedom Democratic Party

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Dear Convention Delegate:

Three mother's sons who sought to secure political democracy for the people of Mississippi probably lie buried beneath the murky swamps near Philadelphia, a small town in that state.

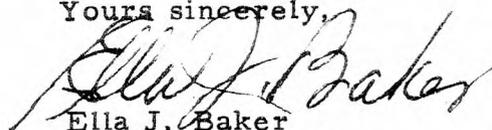
If they have paid with their lives for believing in the right of the governed to have a voice in the election of those who govern them, all Democrats who can register and vote with freedom are now challenged as never before. The long and systematic denial of the Negro's right to vote in Mississippi, and the flagrant disloyalty of the "regular" Mississippi Democratic Party to the principles of the National Democratic Party demand that new channels be created through which all the people of Mississippi can be represented in the 1964 Democratic National Convention. To do less at this historic moment would be a disgrace.

The Freedom Democratic Party parallels the structure and the proceedings of the existing Democratic party, with the notable exceptions that it is open to all citizens and has declared its loyalty to the announced principles and platforms of the National Democratic Party. A delegation from the Freedom Party will seek to be seated at the Atlantic City Convention. This challenge has received support from the following states either through state conventions or executive committees: California, Michigan, New York, Minnesota, Oregon, Wisconsin, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia.

We urge that your entire delegation use the full weight of its prestige and voting strength to see that the challenge raised by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party receives a full and open hearing before the Credentials Committee of the Convention, and if the Credentials Committee fails to seat the Freedom Democratic Party, that your delegation call for a minority report and a roll-call vote to permit the Mississippi issue to be discussed on the floor of the convention.

The people of Mississippi depend on you for help. We look forward to your support at the convention in Atlantic City.

Yours sincerely,



Ella J. Baker

Co-ordinator, Washington Office