

Sunday September 26, 1964

Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Meeting held in Jackson

First Session: 11:00 A.M.

The meeting was called together by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Lawrence Guyot. He presented to each person a packet containing the Freedom Primer #1 and a copy of the letter which had been mailed to Summer Volunteers and Friends of the M.F.D.P. requesting them to come back to the state and assist in the Freedom Vote which will take place October 30, 31 and November 1, 2. The packet also contained a detailed description of the Freedom Vote, the Convention Challenge and other material. This packet was very favorably accepted by M.F.D.P. members and they agreed that the Chairman should have the power to prepare and distribute materials pertaining to the M.F.D.P. in the absence of the members. The Chairman stated that the members of the M.F.D.P. have an obligation to themselves and to the party to accept the responsibility of carrying on the work of the party.

First: We must realize that we are a part of the national party. There must be precinct meetings held regularly; We cannot afford to hold precinct meetings just every four years. Materials of a constructive and objective nature must be used as training tools in the precinct meetings. The people who carry on these meetings must keep in mind that the theory and concept of government does not begin at the top but at the bottom. The Freedom Primer which is published every ten days will be mailed to each project for use in precinct meetings.

Second: Members of the M.F.D.P. must begin to think of giving their time to going out of our counties and districts and state speaking on behalf of the party. We should prepare to go out of the state to speak and raise funds for the party. This is important if we are going to build a political structure.

Third: Some members raise questions about the raising and distribution of funds. After some discussion of the matter, it was agreed that each city or community would set up plans to raise its own funds; each community or city should strive to be self-supporting. There should be a state treasury which could supplement on the basis of merit. Any community or city failing to carry its load would be given an ultimatum. The M.F.D.P. help from COFO staff in preparing materials for speakers, and in any other way it can. However, M.F.D.P. should strive to become self-supporting in all its aspects.

Fourth: The matter of qualifications of candidates for the independent election in the November 2 campaign was brought up. If candidates do not qualify for the regular election, they will run in the Freedom election. The Freedom election will also be a basis for a challenge of senatorial and congressional seats in the U. S. Congress. Chairman Guyot stated that because of other people coming into the state to assist in the election campaign, he will assist in organizing the communities, setting up the schedules, securing the speakers and helping to arrange car pools.

Fifth: It was agreed that the names of all the candidates should be placed on the ballot, that too much emphasis cannot be placed on the Freedom Vote. It is the most valuable tool of political organization the Negro has in Mississippi.