

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY
1353 U Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
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APPROXIMATE TIME TABLE OF THE STATUTORY CHALLENGE

The challenges to the contested Congressmen will be filed in accordance with a formal statute of Congress which outlines the exact steps to be followed whenever the right to hold a seat in the House of Representatives is challenged. This statute is Title 2 of the United States Code, Section 201. This is a formal law of Congress and is not a part of the rules or precedents of the House which could be subject to change.

The formal challenges must be filed within 30 days after the certification of the results of the elections. The challenges will be served on the contested representatives personally and by mail. They will be in written form and will set forth in full the reasons why the challenges are made, outlining why the Mississippi elections and political system are in total violation of the federal constitution.

The challenged members then are requested to answer the charges within thirty days. Their answer will be due on about Jan. 2nd. They must send their formal answers to the challengers.

After the challenged men have answered in writing, the law provides that the contestants have a period of forty days within which to use federal subpoena power to take testimony throughout the state of Mississippi to support the charges in the challenges. They will seek to prove that the Mississippi elections violated the Constitution and occurred in an atmosphere of terror and coercion. This testimony will be taken in open public hearings throughout the State. If local federal judges refuse to issue these subpoenas, immediate emergency appeals can be taken to the higher Federal Courts. The subpoenas must be obeyed under penalty of contempt of court. This period of time for full public testimony throughout Mississippi would run until approximately February 10th.

The challenged representatives then have forty days to take whatever testimony they want. They may or may not use this time. If they do, this takes the period until approximately March 20th.

The challengers then have 10 days to take rebuttal testimony. At the conclusion of this period all the evidence is formally mailed to the clerk of the House of Representatives. The challengers and challenged individuals are personally summoned to appear before the Clerk. Decision is then made as to how much of this record will be printed by the public printer. This period of time will probably run until about May 1st. The printed briefs are then distributed to the House Committee on elections and privileges.

The contestants have 30 days to file their brief and the challenged parties have 30 days to answer. This period runs until about July 1st.

At this point the entire challenge is placed before the Subcommittee on elections and privileges of the House of Representatives which has jurisdiction over the controversy. This Committee then must make the decision as to whether formal public hearings will be held before the Committee. The Committee will then vote on its position and present this in a resolution to the House of Representatives. These political decisions by the Subcommittee and the House would probably come to a head sometime during July, 1965.