

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS * JUNE 14 - 20, 1965

Monday, June 14: The Mississippi state legislature was scheduled to hold a special session of the legislature. The MFDP had called on people from across the state to come to Jackson to protest this meeting of the legislature on the grounds that it was illegally elected and unrepresentative of the people. Therefore it had no right to sit and pass laws. 500 people gathered in Jackson; they had a meeting at a church one mile from the capitol. Around noon 30 people left in cars to go to the capitol, when they got out of their cars they were arrested. Around the same time the rest of the people (450) began to march to the capitol, one block away from it they were arrested by the police. The people were taken to the Jackson State Fairgrounds and booked on demonstrating without a permit—they were marching under their First Amendment Rights of peaceful assembly to protest grievances. At the fairgrounds as men were taken from one building to another, they were made to go between two rows of city and state police who beat them with billy clubs.

That evening 16 people were arrested for handing out leaflets without a permit.

Tuesday, June 15: 200 more people were arrested in Jackson on route to the capitol for demonstrating without a permit. Others were arrested late that afternoon as they picketed the federal building in Jackson. These picketeers were pushed off the federal steps onto city property by federal marshalls and then were arrested by city police.

Tuesday, June 16: 75 people were arrested in Jackson marching to the capitol.

Thursday, June 17: 27 people were arrested around 3:30 pm; 20 of them from Alabama.

Seven congressmen in Washington D.C. held a press conference in which it was announced that the Clerk of the House has not printed any of the depositions submitted by the MFDP as evidence for the Challenge. June 4 he had publicly announced that all of the evidence would be printed. Now on technicalities (documents not being properly sealed or signed in the right places) he has delayed the printing of the depositions.

Friday, June 18: 100 people were arrested in Jackson in five separate demonstrations. They picketed in various places—the New Capitol, the Old Capitol, the Governor's Mansion and the Robert E Lee Hotel, where some of the sessions are being held.

President Johnson announced the appointment of J.P. Coleman to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The appointment has been sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee for approval. Coleman, ex-governor of Mississippi, is one of the lawyers representing the five congressmen being challenged by the FDP.

About 19 people from Mississippi decided to sit in the office of the Clerk of the House, Ralph Roberts to protest the fact that he has not yet printed any of the FDP's evidence. They left that evening when Roberts promised to meet with them the next morning.

Saturday, June 19: Roberts cancelled his appointment with the Mississippi people this morning. The people decided to wait until he came. Police closed the office to the press and would not allow any food to be brought into the Clerk's office. Many of the Mississippi people are very old. About 5 P.M. police arrested 12 of the people, including Mrs. Gray. Acting Captain of the Capitol Police who ordered the arrests said he did so in consultation with the House Sargent at Arms and with the U.S. Attorney's office in Washington, D.C.

Nine people went down to picket the fairgrounds with the intention of getting arrested, in order to take news to the people in the jails and to help build up the morale.

Federal District Judge Cox gave Jackson until Wednesday to submit additional affidavits and briefs to prove that the anti-parade and the anti-leafleting city ordinances are constitutional.

June 19, 1965

APPEAL FOR HELP TO CAMPUS CONTACTS---

From the enclosed chronology of events and other information you can see that this is a real CRISIS SITUATION. You can help in the following ways:

- 1) We understand that most of you are not involved with working groups at the present moment...however there is much that you as an INDIVIDUAL CAN DO. If you live in an area with a Friends of SNCC office, please let them know of your presence and help them...they need you now.
- 2) People are wanted in Jackson now. There will be a large mass meeting in Jackson on Tuesday night. People from all over the country are urged to attend. People coming down must understand that they will be accepting jail without bail. They are protesting the fact that the Mississippi State Legislature is unrepresentative.
- 3) Bail Money is desperately needed to get out minors and the sick and injured. Loans of over \$100 should be sent to the Mississippi Bail Loan Fund, 100 Fifth Avenue, #803, New York City. Outright donations of less than \$100 should be sent to the SNCC Bail Fund, c/o the Atlanta office.
- 4) Write and wire the President and the Justice Department of the US directly asking that they use their power to secure the release from jail of those arrested.
- 5) KEEP PRESSURING YOUR CONGRESSMEN and get others to do the same to demand immediate printing of the depositions for the Challenge. Send letters to the Clerk of the House, Speaker McCormack and your congressmen asking for copies of the depositions.
- 6) Pressure the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to disapprove of the appointment of Coleman to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The members of this committee are Eastland of Mississippi, Johnston of South Carolina, McClellan of Arkansas, Sam Ervin of North Carolina, Dodd of Connecticut, Hart of Michigan, Long of Missouri, Kennedy of Massachusetts, Bayh of Indiana, Burdick of North Dakota, Tydings of Maryland, Dirksen of Illinois, Hruska of Nebraska, Fong of Hawaii, Scott of Pennsylvania and Javits of New York. Ask your senator that he see to it that people from Mississippi be allowed to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on this appointment.
- 7) Continue to see that the connection between the incidents in Jackson and the Challenge be stressed. You should arrange speaking engagements for yourselves with community groups, churches, etc....those of you who were volunteers in Mississippi last summer, make your experiences public.
- 8) Generally request that newspapers and radios in your area carry full stories of what is happening in Jackson. If this is impossible, begin letter writing campaigns to the editor.
- 9) Urge people to send contributions to the FDP in Jackson, 507 North Farish. Their circumstances are desperate.
- 10) Support demonstrations in your community should be held at federal buildings in sympathy with the Jackson demonstrations.
- 11) Devise ways of getting the information about the need for telegrams and letters to as large a group as possible in your community. WE KNOW THAT TELEGRAMS ARE EFFECTIVE. Battles have been won in the past on the strength of telegrams which indicate widespread public support for a particular issue.

Please, please KEEP PUSHING,....

We have learned that only when the Northern part of the country gets aroused are steps taken in Washington to try to correct Southern injustices. And, the success of the Challenge also depends on Northern support. People in Mississippi are in motion, but THEY DO NOT HAVE POLITICAL POWER.