

[1965?]

MEETING OF THE M.F.D.P. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON D.C. - SEPT. 18th.

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The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Lawrence Guyot, who asked the group for an agenda.

The agenda :

1. The future of the Washington office and staff.
2. The role of the State Executive Committee, and how, when, and why the Executive Committee is called and the decisions carried out.
3. How can we keep the interest of the People.
4. The follow-up or wind-up of the Challenge by showing our appreciation to our friends.
5. What will be the functioning of the Jackson MFDP office.
6. How do we follow up the Challenge?
7. Finances ? With reports from all FDP offices.
8. Subsistence and fund raising.
9. Consideration of Adult Education political programs, Filing suits, voter registration.
10. Nominating Convention, and all policies regarding the Freedom Labor Union and Young Democrats: Work Study programs in Washington.

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Mike Thelwell asked to make a report because he was leaving the office the next day to take a teaching position. He spoke of the office personnel and their positions. Jan Goodman was in charge of lobbying; other members- Marion Davidson, Al Johnson, Alan Schiffman and Nancy Couterie.

The staff staying on at the office was asked to orientate the new people coming in. Jan Goodman will direct office staff during the transition period.

The former office was closed down after the Convention at Atlantic City, N.J., but was reactivated in November, 1964. We made a lot of contacts across the country that should be followed up. This is <sup>a</sup> reason for the lack of success of our enemies.

Mike Thelwell recommended that a smaller office be established at once. The apartment that went with the present one would not be needed. When the office was opened we had \$1,000 in the bank and \$4,500 worth of debts. The Challenge cost about \$60,000. The S.C.L.C. was the largest contributor.

Thelwell said that he would make a full financial report on the funds which came through the Washington office, and he highly recommended that fund raising be continued.

Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Hamer commended the office staff on the dedication of their work. It was agreed that people should know how MFDP funds are raised and how and what the money is spent for.

Mike Thelwell made a partial report on moneys spent. He said \$2,000 was spent on Challenge mailings (\$5,000 total), \$15,000 for bus transportation, and \$1,000 for telephone calls from Mississippi.

#### ROVING TEAM AND WORKSHOPS

The function of the Roving Team was seen (partly) as setting up workshops in communities. The chairman suggested planning a workshop in November which would be attended by people from other states as well as Mississippi. The Roving Team should work on this. The chairman named Mrs. Hazel Palmer and Jesse Harris to co-ordinate the Roving Team, and

suggested that the bulk of the finances raised, be spent on them.

Mrs. Gray was chosen to head the Washington office. She stressed the fact that we need adults to work in the office.

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Mr. Andrew Hawkins of Shaw announced that two cars had been presented to the Freedom Labor Union.

Bill Higgs said that members of the party would receive correspondence from Congressmen.

One person from each District will be asked to come to Washington for workshops on politics, and to be trained for office work.

The roving team will also subscribe to all Newspapers in the State and try and get other people to read them too : the white press of Miss. is trying hard (in most cases) to kill F.D.P.. If we know what they are saying , we can at least fight back.

Mrs. Annie Devine, Mrs. Victoria Gray and Mr. Robert Miles were named as forming a sub-committee to get the Jackson office functioning.

Mrs. Nettie Sellers, Mrs. Unita Blackwell, and Mrs. Connor will serve on a Committee to investigate why all members of the State Executive Committee are not present at meetings, and also to find out if all county executive committees are functioning.

Lawrence Guyot announced that he would spend more time fund-raising - outside the State.

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Mrs. Hamer said the Black Congressmen were frightened the day the vote came up (for the Challenge). "They were standing there shaking in their boots, stripped of all their manhood".

The 21 Ministers who are members of the FDP should be encouraged to organize other Ministers and Mrs. Annie Devine was chosen to co-ordinate this job.

The re-apportionment suit which has been drawn-up will be filed at once : the chairman is confident that we will win.

A Legal Co-ordinator for the party was suggested, with the job of giving lawyers information they need at a moments notice.

Speaking contests were discussed for Mississippi people, beginning at the Supervisor level, then county, district and finally State. Mr. Isiah Sellers was assigned to supervise the program then report to the Executive Committee. It was suggested that the MFP encourage people to initiate a Black Xmas for 1965. The people will be asked <sup>not</sup> to buy anything they really don't need because money is power and the more money they have in their pockets, the more power they take from the white man.

Mrs. Ruffin was asked to find out from the Citizens Appeal at Vicksburg the price of newspaper printing and to inform Mr. Kirksey to get the printing of the Jackson office done, or return the printing press to them within the week.

An appeal for funds from the Young Democrats was considered. It was felt that FDP could not help at this time.

The chairman suggested we invite Mr. Percy Green, Editor of the Jackson Advocate, to the State Convention on Oct. 3rd. It caused so much protest that a vote was taken.

Lawrence Guyot - yes	Robert Miles - no	Doug Smith - yes
Hazel Palmer - no	Gracie Hawthorne - no	Willie Rollings - no
Annie Devine - no	Nettie Sellers - no	Dean Hite - yes.
Andrew Hawkins - yes	Isiah Sellers - yes	
Fannie Lou Hamer - no	Enida Blackwell - no	

minutes by Susie Ruffin, acting sec.