

SNCC 50th Anniversary Conference
Shaw University, Raleigh NC, April 2010
Transcript Video Recording #21
(Raw, unedited, no annotation)

Speaker 1 (00:00:23):

Thank

Speaker 2 (00:00:23):

You.

Speaker 1 (00:00:25):

And Gian has agreed to say, which is important and valuable, and I'm sure that in his Generos spiriting with nature, he will share his wisdom with us. That's your thank you

Speaker 1 (00:00:51):

Not having had any <inaudible> family. I'm not sure who should proceed person, but as moderator, I will begin by saying a little bit about my involvement with a Mr. The freedom democratic body and what, in my perception, it means to the political life of this country and electoral politics and American democracy. In general, I am my fellow. I was the coordinator of the Washington office during the Mississippi, the congregation of challenge. And prior to that, there worked in the sneak office planning for the convention in event and the challenge, the national Democrat party, uh, launched by the freedom democratic freedom Democrats, Mr. Democratic party. It certainly the most UN unprecedented political development in the history of this country. It is perhaps political party in a democracy, Mr. Chair, Mr. Chairman, the own political party in any democracy where 96% of his BLEs could not cast a vote.

Speaker 1 (00:02:14):

And yet this vote less alga. Our field workers share crops, disenfranchised black people in the movement, a few students and some well-meaning and effective people nationwide transformed the politics, not only in Mississippi, without the self, whereas perhaps the most, not perhaps certainly the most significant factor in the past, in infected in the passing of the voting right act. And in our work in Washington, we were aided by members, supporters, volunteers across the nation. Many of whom had significantly more political experience than we did. Certainly people coming out Mississippi have been kept from the electoral process as a matter of state policy by violence and intimidation, the law of the mob and the power of the state for almost a hundred years. And yet those people in the summer of 1964 in preparation for the challenge in Atlantic city organized a political party from the precinct level, right up dot ever dot, never had crossing every tee of everything that the political party had to do.

Speaker 1 (00:03:39):

The kind work at the political party that existed for 50 or a hundred years would have an infrastructure to this volunteers. And the people of Mississippi created a political party across the length of breadth of the state, including encounters in which we have not been able to organize simply cause of the threat of violence and death. That is an act of political organization beyond anything I'm aware of in American political history and Don ready and in, or an attempt to go to Atlantic city. And in our attempt to challenge the three congressmen from Mississippi, where you will recall the congressional record, we're sure we got 140 90 votes. There are great many people who contributed to that effort. One of them was in the room today and I like her to stand. And nominat this committee. If I nominated her attorney Goodman of New York to stand out,

Speaker 1 (00:04:47):

Goodman came into the Washington office, having that worked on presidential addiction campaigns. And she had worked at in con Humphrey campaign. Was that correct? Jen? That is correct. Worked worked of losing campaign. She worked on losing campaign. Didn't start winning until she came to us, but she had worked on the Humphry campaign, which was stolen when the Kennedys bought the, the, the West Virginia election. And Jan came to us and she was the person in the office with far more experience in the real working, the pragmatic working of the so-called electoral system in this country. And her contributions are invaluable. That was my involvement, but what I want to say simply before I yield to gentle on my right. So no woman wanted is that never before had a political party existed with the constituency and in the circumstances. And there were fearsome circumstances that the NFP did.

Speaker 1 (00:06:03):

And as I said before, a quotes quotes political party in which 96% of his members were not permitted to vote. We ran freedom elections outside the greater establi, sadly regularly established electoral practices and transformed the state and the largest element of that party. And the most effective element were the native Mississippis. The local people of whom are chairman, who I know is about to join us again, is an adequate is an excellent representative. And of who can me here, ASN field secretary, and a very brief of courageous and heroic mind is another example. Those are examples of the beast, the heart, and the strength of that party. The one who is perhaps best known is <inaudible>. I can't do that. And we have been circulating a leaflet, which I won't take your time at this moment to tell you about, but it's something that richly deserves your support. That concludes by preliminary remarks. I and the protest.

Speaker 1 (00:07:33):

There's a book being written by a gentleman who was on a panel yesterday. And the name of the book is, uh, the audit is of liberation, Mississippi freedom, democratic party, and the redefinition of politics by Michael sister. It is the most dynamic portrayal of the history of the Mississippi freedom democratic party to be. We expected to come out in a year. I want to read just a, a small segment from that then, because I think it captures the timing of the strategy of the Mississippi pre democratic party. In 1965, we were pushing for the passage to the voting rights act. And we were also challenging the constitutionality of the seating of the congressional delegation under section two of the 14th amendment section two, the 14th amendment is very clear and very beautiful. It says, when you deny people the right to vote, you lose your representation in the house of representatives in ratio and proportion to that non denial.

Speaker 1 (00:08:47):

Ours was not the first congressional challenge. The AACP challenge dealt Southern delegations in 1946, but ours was the most wrote about written about the most historic. And I think had the most political significance because our congressional challenge led to the in placement of section five in the voting right side, section five is again, beautiful piece of language is so clear and so devastating. It says that in any covered subdivision wishes change any law that has the possibility of diluting the power of the ballot. It must either be pre-cleared by the department of justice, or it must be litigated on the nerves in the court of the court of appeals in the district of Columbia. That's clear, Mr. Said out to pass 24 laws to sustain the voting rights act when arm comes our case to the Supreme court. And he's gonna talk about that, but I'll just say, come on. I wanna mention it to prepare you for it. It resulted in astounding legal victories, which then was of such an abundant nature, that civil rights lawyers throughout the south begin to.

Speaker 1 (00:10:05):

I hope that we would be able to cover the scope of the congressional challenge, the role that Michael BeWell play and played in his role in the early writing of the 65 voting rights act and how and why that was. And I hope you also talk about the memorandum that we got. Martin Luther king sign and its impact. I, I want to, I've been during instruc, Mr. June, <laugh> to let's begin with Atlantic city in Mississippi. There is more party registration. Our <affirmative> our,

the campaign in Mississippi is the most historic and it is documented. So I make the taste throughout the country. That SNCC is the best group of organizers ever assembled on our, because we have the literary justification for that foundation. When you read Ley Hoens book one nine hearts, when you read Taylor branch pillar fire, when you read local people by John DMA, when you read, I've got the light of freedom by Charles Payne, it is a luxury of literary stend Their ready, ready for revolution. Most I know I'm so glad you said it that way.

Speaker 1 (00:11:43):

Big is no group of people. The, the build up for the, for the Atlantic city was very simplest and so took quite logical. First. It began with the freedom election in which 80,000 people participated. And Martin Luther king helped us do it. Then it was followed up by the freedom summer, 1964, which brought people all over the country could bring the, to the country when we bring the country to Mississippi, that, that, again, give national attention to it. NEA and AFT came in to fight for the curriculum of the freedom schools. The national council churches came in, cuz they've been invited early in Harrisburg. Some heard a discussion of why it was Harrisburg. So important Burg was focused. The national council churches replied from our request to join us for public demonstration about the right to vote in 1963, which led to creation of develop ministry.

Speaker 1 (00:12:42):

All of that is covered in the great book. The divine agitators by Herman, we then moved 19 65, 19 64 also creates freedom schools. Those freedom schools are maintained to this state by the children's defense line that moves 19 65, 19 65. A couple of things happen. The voting rights act is pending. We challenged the congressional delegation, as I said earlier, but I've stepped away from 1964 to 19 city. Let's get back to that, which the forces that were operating very similar, all we needed is 13 votes to have a floor fight. If you go in and read Linda Johnson's tapes or listen to them, he says, we cannot have a floor fight to seek a really white allegation from Mississippi and then go in November and ask black people to vote for. I didn't say that Linda Johnson said that. So what was then done was the question. His strategy was how do we cut down the 13 votes?

Speaker 1 (00:13:50):

And that the history will tell you that an delegate from New York was told you have three contracts with OEO. If you don't, if you stop voting for the C for the treatment democratics party, that's the only way you can keep those contracts. A delegate from California was told your husband may be a federal judge, but you cannot support the support, the freedom democratic party. We could not give. What we did yet was a commitment that there would never be a segregated delegation seated again. And then in 1972, that advantage was, was, uh, changed by people supporting Jimmy Carter to read that 50% of every, every delegation must be female. That will be seated at the democratic convention. That's where we are today. Now this led to open up the democratic process and the, the creation, the activity in Mississippi develop the techniques that Obama was later to use this presidential campaign. Let me tell you, Obama, you use, look at the words he used ordinary people do an extraordinary that comes right outta the mouth. He goes into a state, he wins a camp, a caucus, and he leaves this campaign not stand. That comes right outta <inaudible> the, his approach of quoting the apparition, the slaves of yes. Can Barack Obama's campaign got all the benefits of the civil rights.

Speaker 1 (00:15:29):

I'll stop.

Speaker 1 (00:15:35):

Yes. Hello. Oh, okay. Okay. My name is Armon Durner. I now live in Charleston, South Carolina. I've spent a number of years in Mississippi. Uh, I'm a lawyer. And I think my credentials for being here are not as great, uh, as the other gentleman and lady on the panel, but

there are three, um, I've been handling ball. I represented Mississippi freedom, democratic party, uh, in Mississippi, including in some of the voting rights cases that, um, the had mentioned, um, number two, I think I've gotten a lot of the people in this audience out of jail at one time or another. And number three, uh, on the subject of congressional challenges that is challenges to the, uh, seating, rational delegations, um, GI O mentioned. Um, and, and Michael also mentioned the ones in 1965 GI O mentioned the NAACP's challenge in 1946. Um, however, unrelated by marriage.

Speaker 1 (00:16:38):

Uh, my late wife, uh, was the grand great-granddaughter of the, um, of Congressman George Lagree, who successfully was seated in the us Congress in 1901 after having survived a challenge from the last, uh, African American elected during reconstruction. So, um, my, my family is the beneficiary of crooked challenges in the Congress. Um, he has talked about a lot about 1964 and 1965. Let me give you a brief history after that, and then talk about how NF's, uh, role played on not only in 19 68, 67 and 68, but for years thereafter and up until the present day, uh, the, as <inaudible> said, and Michael said the 64 challenge, the 64, uh, challenge acted democratic national convention paved the way and made it impossible later on to go back to the old ways, the 65 congressional challenge. That is the challenge by, uh, I guess Victoria Gray Adams, any divine and, um, yes, uh, to the three to three of the Mississippi congressmen also made it clear.

Speaker 1 (00:17:57):

We were never going back in 1965. The voting rights act has passed, um, um, making it, creating new, new literacy, new non literacy act, see new non new voting systems and very quickly, um, black voters registered from the hundreds of thousands across the south, including Mississippi. Uh, the response of that of course, was that the states, uh, figured out new ways, what we call vote dilution at large elections, read gerrymandering, uh, all kinds of new things to make sure that even if black focus could vote, they both wouldn't count through very much. And that's where section five of the voting rights act came in, uh, as PI points out because it said that you can't make any changes, unless unless you get permission from the federal government, the Southern states can't make changes without getting permission from the federal government. Um, and there was an early test on that called a versus state board of elections.

Speaker 1 (00:18:53):

It was the name of the case in the Supreme court, but the Mississippi version also included, uh, Clifton Whitley who at that time had become the head of the MFP, uh, against governor John Bell Williams. We won that case in the Supreme court for the court that included, uh, Earl Warren, Hugo black, William O. Douglas, OOD, Marshall and William Brennan. People like that, which gave a very broad interpretation of section five. So that section five has become the engine, uh, for enforcing equal voting rights. To the extent we have an enforcement over the past now almost half about 40 some years, but let me, let me start 1968 because in 1968, um, we again took a challenge delegation this time to Chicago. This was a delegation combining the MFP, along with the N NAACP in Mississippi and the young Democrats, which is predominantly a white organization, but working closely with, with our kids.

Speaker 1 (00:19:50):

Um, I would like to tell you that we did a wonderful job as lawyers, and I think Jen Goodley helped on that one too. Also already Davis, a lot of the other lawyers. Um, and we did exactly what Michael has talked about in 1964. We ran a mirror image going through every step so that they couldn't tell us in Chicago, oh, you didn't have conventions. You didn't do this. You didn't do that. We not only challenge the ability of the white delegate. All white delegation could be seated, but we said, look, we ran a real, uh, democratic process. We had precinct meetings, we had county conventions and we selected delegates and we are here to be seated. And as I say, I would like to tell you that it was our brilliance as lawyers, uh, doing it. But in fact, I think the

work had been done in 1964 and 1965 by the Mississippi freedom democratic party, because whatever, I think, whatever we put on or didn't put on wouldn't made any difference.

Speaker 1 (00:20:48):

We won the credentials challenge in Chicago by a vote of something like 105 to five. So we were on the good side of the political machinations that had denied, um, denied us in 1964. Um, from then on though the spirit of the, this city freedom democratic party has played a role in every single, uh, reenactment of the voting rights act since then voting rights act, section five. Exactly we've talked about, um, has been the major engine. It's had to be renewed because it's temporary legislation. It can be renewed several times, but it has, it has accounted for blocking something like 500, 500 different discriminatory voting laws across south, and probably well over a hundred in Mississippi. And if you, if you think, um, if you think over the history, when you think of the desegregation cases brown versus the board, or other kinds of cases, 500, um, illegitimate laws blocked through this law, just an astounding thing.

Speaker 1 (00:21:57):

Uh, and that, as I say, really came from the beginning of the work of the freedom democratic party that led up to the 1965 passage, but it didn't stop there because the spirit kept on. Um, the voting rights act was due to be expired, was due to expire. Therefore had to be renewed in 1970. At that time, everybody said, well, it's kind of hopeless, cuz there's been an election. Dr. King was murdered. Bobby Kennedy was murdered. Richard Nixon was elected. Um, John Mitchell is the attorney general. Um, we know what they're going to do. Nevertheless, we fought with the same spirit with the help of the freedom democratic party and the spirit that it instilled in people. Uh, all of those who were working on it, the result was that not only was the act renewed, but it was strengthened. For example, whereas literacy tests had been thrown out in the south in 1970.

Speaker 1 (00:22:54):

They were thrown out nationwide, uh, 1970s when the 18 year old vote came. So the law instead of being threatened and blocked and run out was, was expanded in 1975. The same thing happened. They said, well, people have gotten tired of this. It's sort of a new day. Um, they can't get it extended again. We got it extended. And this time we had added language, minority discrimination. So the whole world of Hispanics and Asian voters, uh, native Americans, uh, Alaskan natives, they all came under the protection of voting rights act in 1982, law was gonna run out again. And this time president Reagan had been elected. If we think Nixon is a bad deal, the no notion. I mean, when we, I remember being on airplane, um, I was moving to Washington, uh, from South Carolina at that point and a friend of mine was happy on the same page, said, what are you doing?

Speaker 1 (00:23:53):

He said, well, we move to Washington. We're gonna work on extending the voting rights act. He looked at me like I was crazy and said, it's been an election. You know? Um, the short answer is number one. We passed the bill in the house by 380 to 39 in the Senate by 85 to eight, it was strengthened immeasurable. Instead of being enacted for five or seven years, it was enacted for 25 years. New protections were put in for, um, voters who needed assistance at the polls, like a tiny little thing, but it made such a difference in the old days. If you wanted to get assistance at the polls, you couldn't read, you were too old, you couldn't see, um, the election official would come in the poll with you. What of the chances that you're gonna feel free to vote the way you really want to and tell the election officials?

Speaker 1 (00:24:44):

Oh yeah. I wanna vote for the black candidate running against our sheriff. Um, the 1982 statute changed that by saying, if you, if you have, if you get assistance to vote, then you're entitled to ask for anybody, um, could be a civil rights worker, could be a community person. It, it took, it took the vote really in the hands of the people voting rather than the hands of the officials. Um, I

will say this, um, at a certain certain point there a deal was offered to give us a half baked extension. And a lot of the people who were from Washington DC, who were working for senators or congressmen, who are used to this horse trading said, we ought to take the deal because we don't know how, how we'll do on the floor. It was the people from Mississippi who said, no, we'll go down.

Speaker 1 (00:25:35):

If we have to we're if we go down, it's not gonna be, it's not gonna be our fault that we gave in. If we're gonna go down, we'll go down the way we won down by fighting every step of the way the result was, we rejected the deal and we won by the overwhelming margins. Anyway, uh, brings us to 2006 this time, George w Bush's president, same thing. We've got this Supreme court, uh, as you know, the, uh, the voting rights act was extended in 2006, virtually unanimously. We still have more fights to go. We have a Supreme court that has filled with felons in criminals. Uh, the worst Supreme court, the worst Supreme court than we have had since the days of red stop. Um, but we have to believe that they read the newspapers, that they hear things, and we cannot stop denouncing them and making it clear to everybody, um, what they are threatening to do when they're seeking for attack.

Speaker 1 (00:26:31):

As a result, they backed off at least in the first challenge to the voting rights act last year. Um, and we think they'll do it again. The point is the lessons that the Mississippi Supreme democratic party learned from people in Mississippi, from the people in the counties who took their lives in their hands. Every time they went to vote, or even sometimes just to the grocery store, those lessons that were learned by the strug, by the people in the struggle at M FPP saying the SNCC, um, have stayed in the, in the hearts of people. And they are the only thing we have to, to keep us safe and to, and to go forward with, thank you. I, as far originally only the attorney general could bring section five cases. Mm-hmm <affirmative> how did the Supreme court change that in Alan? Um, in, yeah, in Alan, there was, um, the, the old law said that the, what is Ali, I'm sorry.

Speaker 1 (00:27:41):

There was a case, the case in 1968, dealing with the interpretation of section top, the basic part of the voting rights act says, uh, you can't use any literacy tests or any other kinds of tests or devices, uh, the famous questionnaires that people used to use back in the old days. And so now it said, uh, you can't use those tests anymore in the south. Uh, section five was a backup to that and said, and this is the section that said, now that we know you can't, you literally see tests, you try, you know, you try to use other things. So any new law has to be approved or the word is pre-cleared by the attorney generally. And so as of, and the interpret the question in the Allen case, which is also the ley case, uh, from Mississippi, uh, the question there was how broad does that cover?

Speaker 1 (00:28:30):

And the, in that case, the Supreme court of that day said it covers any possible thing that could affect the right to vote. That was a critical interpretation by the court. And it meant that rather than just being a narrow law, it would cover. And as I say, it resulted in 500 laws being blocked for last some number years. Did it not also give individuals the right to Sue on search finding? Yes. Yes. It, uh, my, my, my coach here has reminded me <laugh> law law professor. Yeah. Professor GI. Um, yes, there, there were many, many things that the, uh, that the law did, but one of them was to, instead of simply having the attorney general, being able to, uh, to Sue, to block laws, it said that individual voters had standing standing means you were entitled to go to court and bring a lawsuit.

Speaker 1 (00:29:25):

Individual voters had the standing to go to court to bring a suit to block these. And that's been the chief engine because it means that even if the attorney general is John Mitchell or the attorney

general is, uh, John Ashcroft or what's, his name is Gonzalez that not, can't find a job <laugh>, uh, even if they're the attorney general, it doesn't matter because we don't have to depend on them. And we always know that depending on government officials is a very Chancey thing. It may be nice occasionally when the government officials want to do the same want to do right. But if we depend on them, uh, we won't be beginning very far. So this law put in the individual voters' hands, the ability to Sue and that's, that's been critical to some of the progress there, again, that also comes out of the MF DP, because we, we learned in 1964 in Atlantic city that, uh, no matter how much the politicians say they want to be on our side, we have to have the weapons in our own hands. Thank you, brother.

Speaker 1 (00:30:32):

I think one can overestimate overs the importance of the consulate's remarks, because if we look much bra more broadly and more generally, we will see that the political strategy that brought us first run at Reagan, the first version and George w was all predicated on voter suppression mm-hmm <affirmative> or create an electorate in this country that is essentially white, middle American and excluding minorities, excluding poor people. And that has been the, the guide and effective strategy of the right to surge. What you just heard is an effective attempt to counter that, which led to bar Obama, so that the legal and the judicial and the political elements of the struggle is of key importance.

Speaker 1 (00:31:29):

Let me just add to that right now, today, that campaign is going on in full swing. Yes, the right wing knows that normal population trends over the already and for the next few years, that's forever mean that more women, more African Americans, more immigrants, more people of color will be coming into the electorate. Normal population growth will mean that the conservative group today can call the Republican party or whatever, uh, will become a permanent minority. The only thing they can do is to juggle the electorate. And so they've done that. And the main method right now, the main method right now up to now has been so-called voter ID bills. These have been passed men. Most of you know, about these have been passed in Georgia, um, passed in Indiana, passed in a number of states. And on the theory that there's so much voter fraud, which there isn't, that you should make, you should make it as in, as in inconvenient or impossible for people to vote freely.

Speaker 1 (00:32:38):

Um, you have to get ID, then they'll say, well, you need a, a government issue, color photo of color ID. Then you need two pieces of photo ID. It'll be harder to vote than is to get on an airplane. Yeah. Um, and that's what they're doing. And so that has to be watched in every single state. The other thing they've done recently is, um, a Supreme court case that says corporations are free to spend as much money as they want on elections. That too is a, is a, a notion of spending hundreds of millions of dollars on campaigns, um, to drown out the voice of the people and make sure that the ordinary voter sees nothing but Fox news or people to the right of Fox news, the, the fight never ends. Correct. And as I was saying, thank you for that amendment, that interjection are very important. But what I was saying is that as important as the judicial and the legal and the political struggle is cause that's where the results come. The Genesis of the force and strength of that struggle was the people in Mississippi and at ever turn has been the principle, the position of these people that has driven that struggle forward. And as we were talking, I saw some people come in. I saw what zero peacock, who I'd like them to stand is one of the legendary sneak.

Speaker 1 (00:34:07):

I saw Willie and I saw C Eddie brown who was responsible for organizing in the second Congress who made possible and was the father, as you know of AK ed. So having good respect to the roots, I'd like him to turn on a brilliant young scholar.

Speaker 1 (00:34:54):

Just, I want to give you a telephone number to get on my mailing list. So I'm ready to deal with the battle that's coming. It's 6, 6, 2, your, you all ran this Don now (662) 822-2063. Simply call that number, give them your email or tell 'em. You want to be on my mailing list. I'll be in touch with you within the next two days. Say again, it's 6 6 2 8 2 2 26 30. That's the, that's the Mississippi number. Isn't it? That's the Mississippi number. And the name of the person is Margaret Kibby. Exactly. K I B B E E. That in two days, you'll get my news done. Wow. And while I'm doing this, I want to introduce Mr. Davenport. Stand up Mr. Davenport. This young man has the doctor about the Mississippi freedom democratic party and Theresa Del PSO is back there. She was one of the hardest workers with the Mississippi freedom democratic party. Please stand there.

Speaker 3 (00:36:12):

I'm here because I was in my office early spring and I'm in office hour. She's coming in and out and I get this phone call. So I pick up the phone and this boy booms out over the microphone, out that hand, I love your book. And of course it was one of my heroes, Mr. Hiatt. And so he said, you gotta come down and, and talk on this panel. And I was scared. I'm not gonna lie. Right. When I come down and, and speak next to people, I consider my heroes. So I'm gonna keep it brief. He said, you got eight minutes. I'm gonna try to keep a little under that. Um, and the first thing I wanna say is I bring a perspective where I'm working with young people day in and day out. And most people have never, ever heard of MFP, never heard of it, not in anything. And so I guess I just like to make three points. One is there's three ways to organize a society, right? Can organize the society around money. You can organize it around the military and you can organize it around people. And we have libraries and textbooks and bill games, full of books on organized people or money and organized military. We have very, very, very, very little on organized people, shockingly thin on organized people.

Speaker 3 (00:37:43):

So, and, and the reason for this brings me to point to, I'm gonna invoke the spirit of Miss Hammer and say, most people don't have organizing as a category in their head. It's just totally missing. It's missing from political history. It's missing from political science. It's missing from the culture. Our students don't know it. And of course, Miss Hamer was an exception to this rule. She went up to Cleveland, Ohio in 1965, and she was speaking to a group of welfare rights, organizers, mostly white. And she used as usual, very concrete metaphors to explain to them what most of America was missing. So forgive me, I'm just gonna quote her here. As she was coming in to, to the speaking engagement, there were a bunch of people holding up signs, mostly white folks, protesting presence.

Speaker 3 (00:38:37):

And there's a big fellow who had to sign and said, go back to Africa. So she says, well, I don't know who you are, but I always tell you before I go. So if you're there, it can reach you. After you send the Jews back to Jerusalem, the Chinese back to China, you'll give the Indians back their land and you get on the mainland from which you came <laugh>. It looks as it's, all of us is on borrowed land and we plan to enjoy some of it too. That's why I think it's important for people in every city to have the freedom democratic party set up. You just don't know how much grassroots people can. Do you see whether you know it or not? You're excluded from politics too. So like the man holding the go back to Africa sign, most of us today don't realize the extent to which we're excluded from political life. I mean, my students definitely don't, we're still, even though most of us who do have an inkling or we're kind of routinely clueless as to how to respond. So more often than not, our activities are limited talking or what the civil rights activists call speech about.

Speaker 3 (00:39:45):

And you see this today, the people who feel excluded today, spend an inordinate amount of time with their own versions of go back to Africa, right? So you see the tea party people, and you see the birthers people saying no death panels. And so I'm gonna suggest that SNCC organized our Courtland Cox summary insight from 1965, right. Still rings true in our own time, 45 years ago, he said, people know how things are, but they don't know what to do about it. And so that leads me to my final point. And Dr. Falwell referred to this at the very beginning of his remarks, which is that the MF DP is the most powerful example we have in the nation's history, the greatest political experiment in small de democracy that we have, and we don't know nearly enough about it. So for the young people out there, I wanna encourage you to continue the scholarship and continue the teaching.

Speaker 3 (00:40:35):

And I'm gonna leave you on my third point with, um, another here of mine, Dr. Moses, who said in 1965, the people, the top people in this country operate in thousands of organizations simultaneously, but the poor have no voice nor organization, SNCC field workers can help people set up their own organizations, not set up affiliates of SNCC in all the counties. And that's what MF DP did. Right? They set up organizations for people to run their own lives, to make their own decisions. They didn't wanna just set up SNCC in every county. And so I really hope that we can find a way to be quiet and listen to Mr. Cotton, to Mr. Peacock, to any other SNCC organizers that are in the room about how we go ahead and do that. Cuz I think as a culture, we definitely have not encouraged the, the knowledge and the wisdom that we have today. Thank you.

Speaker 2 (00:41:31):

What's the name of

Speaker 1 (00:41:38):

Name? The book is many mines. One heart. Oh, it's an excellent quote. We program west the many mines, one heart recommend to, um, our next speaker is gonna be brother cotton, who I worked with and respected and UN mad for many years, right before he speaks to all my heroes came in. He before whom brought a cotton who represented by brought a cotton? I Seery. Yes, yes. Would ever stand J Harris. Certainly one of the real hero is Brooks who came early. Brought up. I want, may I name one in person? John, do the assistant attorney general. Please come over here. John and sister. Brenda. Travis is also here. Alright, sister, Brenda. All right.

Speaker 1 (00:43:20):

And we no further ado, Ronald first I would like to apologize to, uh, can hear you. We can hear, I would like the first to apologize to got for whatever I must still have done to him. I had no intentions to mistreating, but having said that, uh, I probably, uh, would a M just a little more, if you <laugh>, I was thinking about it. You were saying that is the best organization that greatest organized we ever existed in the history of, I guess you say this country. And I was just thinking that we are products of people who from, uh, about 1869 to 18 nine, who organized several schools, not freedom school, but real school. Uh, some, uh, say many businesses, you know, religious institutions. And they did it in about 20 years. I there about because after that 20 years after the 9, 18 90 constitution, they wasn't allowed to free to organize anymore.

Speaker 1 (00:44:52):

And of course you got a lot of negative pieces and all of that, but comfort. Well, I, in talking about cohort, I have to, uh, kind, uh, well maybe I look at it a different, I'm not a lawyer and I'm not a college professor. You can see. So I'm a construction worker. So let me see if I can kind of put this in the, uh, perspective of which I understand. I see, uh, I see, uh, five challenges. I know we talk about one. We talk about the one in, uh, you know, in Atlantic city, I see five, the first one was a challenge at, uh, at the courthouse. We had to register, uh, to register boards. And we did this in some key places first in cone Tylertown and uh, in, uh, mid county, and then went on

to Greenwood Greenville with the idea that in this black bear, we thought that we could demonstrate, uh, if we could just get enough people voted in one of those communities and elect the few officials, we could demonstrate the importance of voting.

Speaker 1 (00:46:21):

Of course we met with, uh, you know, all kind of terror. So we, we heard the story and the next step we organized <inaudible> which correlates rice organization. I think somebody had already spoken about that. We pulled and all the civil rights organization, organization B lead, uh, you know, all kind of, uh, local organization, church committees and put, put 'em all under 1, 1, 1 umbrella. This purpose was to get some kind of state, uh, state initiative, state strategy. So after having done that, we came up with the, somebody came up with the brilliant idea, mark, uh, election, which was very, very good to me in that it gave the opportunity for people all over the state to participate here, afford being limited in staff and running from one hotspot to another. We could all, Enman a couple of areas at a time, this game, the, you know, voting lead and other local groups and the NAACP there.

Speaker 1 (00:47:48):

And we had a lot of underground NAACP at that time. They, uh, there them an opportunity to participate in this, uh, activity. So, which of course brought the need to for another two, another two we needed was a proliferative and understanding that someone came with the idea of the freedom democratic party. And there, again, a challenge, um, setting up first to, uh, uh, challenge, uh, the possibility say for a better word, possibility of running in our election. Cause at that time, you know, you could be assassinated just for attempting to run election. So, you know, we had high profile pro profile people like, uh, uh, area, miss Victoria, grave, family name, people like that running and the district, they again gave the state, uh, we were galvanized the state of the time, us a good opportunity to begin to pull the whole state together. And of course, once we came after having, after having run, uh, these marked elections, then, uh, we set up for <inaudible> and which again gave us another two for community to organize.

Speaker 1 (00:49:33):

And, uh, of course we heard the story about the success of that. Uh, and of course the challenge, uh, was successful eventually. Uh, we know that we had a struggle with that just like we did everything else. But, uh, I think that, I think the important thing, the point in trying to make that it was a step, a step attempt and it was struggles all along the way. And, uh, uh, after, you know, this challenge, the success of this falls to another state, and this was, um, kinda back the somebody really question about what happened to car. And I made this person I thought was challenge. So that probably could be self explanatory and it never really, some of us talked about it. We never really set it up to cause it was a protest pod you protesting and you for then you music. The, we keep the, of course there were still some, some areas kept, uh, what we call the local, uh, freedom democratic party, but as a freedom democratic party, you not organized from, uh, local.

Speaker 1 (00:51:22):

Uh, those is the, uh, local improvement associations and, uh, voter committees. It, uh, kind of broke back down into that kind of organizations, the local organizations. So by the time that, uh, the next, uh, national election came, we were able to put together not in the name of, uh, uh, freedom, democratic art, but the same people, you know, and the same local groups, we were able to challenge again, the city democratic part by taking over precincts and, and eventually we a state chairman. So which of course I said that it also eventually elected, uh, Ron brown to the chairman of the national democratic party. And of course we see, you know, us now. So, uh, I think that probably the freedom democratic party, but it was designed to do. And, uh, if we needed, if we need that tool to in, we put it together, uh, probably we won't need that particular, but this term that we need to, I wanna introduce ed king, who is the Lieutenant government, the election.

Speaker 4 (00:53:18):

And

Speaker 1 (00:53:18):

I wanna lay out what is gonna be the report of this committee with, with everyone in the room, having a vote, the attorney general is responsible for conducting the, the 1965 or the next act. It's his, his responsibility. He has been charged publicly by people who say that he's not going to force it for white people. The, the Congressman who Congressman woo, who accused him of that said, well, I studied in Mississippi and I support the voting ninth act, but Eric Holder doesn't support the voting ninth act as it become, comes to the rights of white people. Now there's a case in KNY county where the department of justice, orange books, you remember that case, you told me about I brown, right?

Speaker 1 (00:54:12):

The department of justice took I brown on and wrote beautiful language about here's depriving white people of the right to vote. The people who vote in Noby county won Reone all of the elections that have been nullified, but that is case positive that the department of justice will attack anyone who interferes with section five for any reason. Okay, I'm gonna master this one day. Uh, George w Bush's department justice. Well now it's Eric holders and what I, what I want us to, one of the thing I want us to report is two things. One, I want us to report the need for the creation of a task force to support the extension of the 1965 voting right act the Supreme court. When it was brought before the last time tried to overturn it, tried to kill it. They just couldn't get five votes. Would you agree to that on now they're coming back. And what we need is a broad support throughout the country while the continuation of the voting rights act. What we also need is broad support for Eric Holder because the, the whole attack is gonna be, he's not bar implementing the voting ninth side. I think this is an organization that has the credibility and the responsibility to lead those two fights. And I ask your support in him. Cause I don't, I want to answer the challenge given to us by the great dinner speaker.

Speaker 1 (00:55:58):

I think if we fight to preserve voting rights act and to support Eric Holder, we will do more to bring this country to the county countries that it is in, in 25 years, this country will not be in right majority of the country. Mm-hmm <affirmative> if we don't start now, the right wing is very clear. They're not in control of the government. Therefore they should not be a function of the government. And our response should be while they internalized, we organize

Speaker 1 (00:56:44):

The issue was the, the white people in Knoxy county felt that they had been discriminated against. Are you gonna listen to the answer? Yes. And because blacks had taken over I brown is a well established political politician. Who's black in Noxy county. Noxy county has a history of disenfranchisement when white people would continually defeated at the polls, they brought a charge under section five, the voting rights act that they had been disenfranchised. The department of justice agreed with them. Now I wanna make it clear. I don't agree with the file of the case, but I want us to, it stands it repudiates. The fact that the justice department won't represent white people, therefore, and it, it has some beautiful languages that we're gonna use on other white people. And that's how that happened. Is the justice department of this administration or past in this administration, did they have evidence that people were were to work well?

Speaker 1 (00:57:44):

They had evidence and, uh, they won the case and it was a brilliant decision, but in my opinion, it should have never happened. What, but as a politician, it did happen and I'm concerned that we use it and use Itally. We use it. Number one, to apply universally number two, to defend Eric ho hope he's chairman of the democratic in. That's also important to understand that that's a black majority. And what if, if you can see into the future, you'll see that that is the beginning of, of

those people who are about to be the minority in the next 20 years. It's there challenging for black politic cause we in fact, uh, struggl to get black people into positions of leadership in party politic in some areas of party politic where it's possible in Mississippi and the white backlash was to challenge the black chairman of the democratic party in that way. What was it? Basis of? Good challenge, white things were discriminated discrimination.

Speaker 1 (00:59:11):

It was, it, it was section five, the voting rights act. And they had, they had been disenfranchised the same way they did to, I mean, right folks are saying they're to they out vote county. They want vote county. Some of them were not allowed to vote. Some of them a challenge that poll that's, those are facts. That's the way it is. I got that. If I remember correctly, uh, what happened was, is in the, uh, democratic primary. If you notice, uh, you don't have very many Democrats in this city, we get involved in the fight of whether or not he will support the voting rights act as it applies to all citizens. Sir, you want me to hand up around, right? If people are asking questions, my name is James Jones. I'm an American history teacher, McComb, Mississippi, and I'm proud to say white Democrat in Mississippi at, uh, so I just wanted, everybody know, it appears that voter ID will be on the ballot this fall in Mississippi tragically.

Speaker 1 (01:00:25):

And I wish I could tell everybody here that it will be convicted, but I don't know a lot. But one thing I do know a lot about is Ms. White folks. And, uh, when it goes to the poll November, I will talk to them. I will tell them the real reason it is there. They will look me in the face. They will say, of course I won't vote for it. Cause of that. They will go to the polls and they will vote, pull off and it will win. It is going to win. And like you said, it is going to get to the point of voting in Mississippi, where it's going to be easier to get on an airplane. It is going to be easier. And my question is, and I, and I hate to say, it's true. It's going pass. And, um, isn't some way under the voting rights act for God's sakes at any place, at least Mississippi, that this law can be challenged because it is there for one person, one purpose, and the white folks know it.

Speaker 1 (01:01:25):

They will tell me, oh, it's voter fraud, but it's code in the back of their mind. We're going see black folks vote and tragically. That is the truth. And I hope it could be challenged cause it will pass. Sir. You just give us another issue to agree form in our report. I don't think there'll be any opposition for that. And we got one of the greatest section five lawyers in America sitting right here. If we lose it at the poll, he'll take it to court. UN I will say this that's exactly what that this section five is for Mississippi will not be able to enforce it unless they persuade the attorney general. And this attorney general has not approved any voter IDs. The voter ID that was approved in Georgia was done by the old attorney general under the old administration. And so you have to be ready to, um, when the time comes to speak up to the attorney general and I believe it will, they will reject, right? So go to the Supreme court. Um, let's hope not Mr.

Speaker 1 (01:02:32):

For the students in the room, Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure we're ruling two things. One rise is support of us two points. And now that I understand those, the details I get the, I see why that particular case of that county does apply to the fairness, the attorney general terms of dealing on these matters. And secondly, I fully agree that the voting rights act, which does have to be removed from time to time and does face court challenges. And so it needs to be something similar to say the civil rights commission of the 1950s, um, commission by something to preserving the voting rights. I think it's time to do it coming. I wanna make other comment about other giant of the civil rights that also walked a, I think Mr. Gab in his presentation was a little too modest. And also there was also touched on this, but for those who were younger, what gave moral residents, the Mississippi party, the like go out and register voters.

Speaker 1 (01:04:02):

Giants began was always a history before the history, after the reconstruction days and post reconstruction, but at least for this 70 year old, um, beginning, somewhere around 60 ness, that willingness to get people involved and the bravery of those individuals going created the framework for Mississippi, Peter democratic party. One other comment is one other specific piece involving Mr. And, and that is the work and Mr. Fiat and the same with the work for Willie peacock, they would've probably might very well have died in <inaudible>. And most of us who would've a memory of this, remember her testimony, before's credentials committee of the national convention. When she told the story of what it was like to be in Mississippi and made specific reference reference what happened to her, what happened to a ponder? What happened to Peter Johnson, the brought home to the democratic party nation, the need for the, that prehistory important.

Speaker 1 (01:05:35):

Anyway, you got the general point. There is that explain section five, mic section, section five is a portion of the voting rights act, um, where we think of the voting rights act as the act that ended literacy tests. And that was the so called section four. And section five was a backup to the end of the literacy test saying that even though we've gotten lit of the literacy test, we know there'll be other MIS to come along behind it. So section five is designed to do that. So the two work together, you I'm curious about whether any of these things can be applied, uh, uh, ex felon, um, voting rights because to me that's how black men are being disen in this country. And as far as I can tell that a lot of the races have gone into the prison system and gone into the legal, the DAS and all that stuff to the prison.

Speaker 1 (01:07:00):

And, and yet it's the same damn thing. And in Oregon, they have a, uh, that's where I'm from. And when I was doing this stuff around the election, you know, they, they have a thing where once you're out of jail, you can vote, but nobody knows it. Nobody knows it. You go to felons and, and they ex felons and they'd be out of jail. And they would just, they wouldn't believe you if you said that, that they could vote. So I'd like to see if section five or something could be applied to, and that's a real thing for young people mean to me, that should be a major deal. Let me just say this on that. There's been a lot of controversy, a lot of mitigation. So the one thing to know is that there is federal legislation pending in which the federal government would across the board say you can't disqualify felons. That's something. And start talking to your Congress more, a red shirt.

Speaker 1 (01:08:09):

Uh, hi, my name's Jasper and I'm really excited about the history and it's, I read a bunch of books. And so it's cool to see all these people who, into books and stuff. But I was wondering if y'all could talk about like I'm organizing in Virginia, uh, every day. And I, I want to know how I can take the successes and, and the failures that existed. And the MFT P use that in my work. Like the law stuff is all kind of whatever, but like, how can I say, like the fact that y'all organize this statewide? Like how, how do I think organizing lessons outta that? Because I'm not gonna be dealing with the law. I'm gonna be dealing with people. I don't know how to do that. My telephone number is three telephone number. I'm a friend of do ladders. I calls you, well, I hear I was supposed to come. Yeah, set up the meeting up. I'm there no more. I, no, Virginia, I live Virginia. I'll come.

Speaker 1 (01:09:09):

I'd like to speak to that question, which is exactly what I want you to talk about. When you look at this, your okay, therea Del Paso, a work on the, with the MF DP very well there. What we, you know, quiet, um, you know, what we have in represents on this panel and what we have in this room is in fact, what we, how the movement, the many different parts of it, you know, there's di there's MacArthur there's will peacock. There's all, all the grassroots organizers. There was the congressional. The first, there was the, um, formation of the Mississippi democratic party was

done. Partially. One aspect of it was the intentional challenge at the, at the, uh, Atlantic city democratic convention in 1964, in order to bring that challenge in front of the convention, it required a resolution from a state democratic organization to challenge that seat.

Speaker 1 (01:10:46):

There were Northern support group who working with SNIC at the time. And one of them was me in Wisconsin. The SNCC office said, Walter pillow out to Wisconsin. He and I just, as we all you young people are like, you got ourselves together. He went, found somebody to stay with, went to the Wisconsin. Democratic convention, went to the MIS Minnesota democratic convention. And we secured the resolution that brought the challenge to the Atlantic city convention. That was possible because of what the Southern movement had been doing over the years because of the sit-ins because of the freedom, summer cetera, because of the formation of the Mississippi freedom democratic party, because of the freedom singers, because of the university professors that were talking about the history that had, had brought us to the point we were at in 1964. And as that went on, then came well all through that period of time, there were the legal advisors.

Speaker 1 (01:12:17):

It was the first time that the white power structure had not been able to use the red BA techniques of the 1950s, God against the progressive legal community that came to stand with the few black lawyers who had been able to gain those positions in the south. And from that, we had all the paperwork of the, of the, the first we had the con the, uh, convention challenge, and then attorneys came from all over the country. They volunteer, they came themselves, they paid their ways that many of them, their court, uh, Tys came with them. They used the history of the reconstruction to bring the white Mississippi sheriffs and, uh, uh, voter people in front of the Mississippi people in the Mississippi communities. They had the right to subpoena every single person and those sheriffs who had been brutalizing people, all those officials who had been brutalizing, people had to come to the black churches and the black community centers, the freedom democratic party, the freedom schools, the freedom libraries, and had to be questioned about their behavior, what they had done against the people of the Mississippi movement, all these things together.

Speaker 1 (01:14:22):

And then we move on to the voting act, but all these things together made the move. And there is there, you know, there's been a lot of discussion in this conference about relating to young people. And I, I hate homage to that, but you know what? We are not dead. <laugh>, you know, we are still alive and well and healthy, and it is our responsibility to continue this work, whether it's supporting what's coming up in elections in Mississippi. There's no reason why we can't be doing these same things in our own communities, because it is our Congress people. It is our senators who get to vote on those bills. And that is the only way that we are not gonna get our ass. Can

Speaker 3 (01:15:37):

Someone address this question please?

Speaker 1 (01:15:39):

Before go to the next question. I've addressed it, my name, we know each other. Okay. But not he set up the meeting share with everyone. I'll

Speaker 3 (01:15:50):

I think to share with everyone, the entire audience, it would be helpful to give, I believe he asked about specific strategies, organizational

Speaker 1 (01:15:57):

Strategies. I am the strategist. How can we give you a strategy? If you want, look at other people doing organizing at operation, understanding in Washington, you can look at cultural leadership in Pittsburgh. You can look at the children's events. One in Washington, they organizing young people. But the whole question is there's nothing mysterious about organizing. And we can do that. If we're serious about doing it, I've said, I'll come. What more can I say? Can I just say too, that there's young people's project in the room. There's young people who've been doing organizing for a while here. So I don't know London, are you still here? Okay. Gonna be speaking. Mic is written.

Speaker 1 (01:16:53):

And if there's you qualify to answer the questions rather brought a mag door for me. I was wondering whether I'd say something or not. Um, let's just start by saying all these things to defend voting rights are important. And I want everyone to understand that. I believe that, but I wanna add something that Bob Moses said many years ago, the way to keep a man, a slave, or is to give him the vote and tell him he's free. There's a truth in that as well. And so we have two contradictory truths. The vote is extraordinarily important. On the other hand, not everybody needs to be drawn into the fight for the vote mass nonviolent direct action on issues of justice, social and economic justice is every bit as important. And I encourage especially young organizers to be engaged in local organizing that is expressed in mass nonviolent direct action. If you successfully build majorities behind that kind of action, the politicians will follow. They won't be able to follow if your people don't have the right to vote, which is why the right to vote is so set, but don't lose focus on master right. Action.

Speaker 1 (01:18:41):

That, did I see your hand? Yes. With your eyes, sir. And like, just with your wisdom, no wisdom. I have a question. Hello, historical question. I've always been bothered by it. I think you might be able to shed light on it on the brink of the convention. In 1964, there were really two things going on. One was the build up to the confrontation over the scene in M FTP. And at the same time behind the scenes and out front, the beginning of the decision to bomb Vietnam. In fact, the bombing of Vietnam took place. I believe on the day that, uh, Janie Goodman and sch were buried. And I don't know if, if you have an opinion on this, but I've always wondered if you see these as two unrelated decisions that happened at the same time or whether there was a relationship between going to war and Vietnam and denying the MF DP, and whether had the MF DP been successful in being seated would the, uh, uh, war had happened.

Speaker 1 (01:19:53):

Anyway, these are all what ifs, but because these things all happen. We now have white house documents, tapes, they're all being discussed in secret. In your opinion, was there any relationship between these two, uh, profound issues that occurred in the same week or two? You introduce yourself? I, I, I want to add another part for that six series. The bodies of smart chain and Goodman was found five days before the found convention of the freedom democratic. Exactly. So I think if the freedom democratic party had been seated there would've been a different kind of politics. I don't know if it would've had the strength to stop Lin's pursuit for the bombing. And I don't want to pull that forward, but I understand why you can acts.

Speaker 1 (01:20:47):

I think we should move back to the question to I'm, but Bernard say whatever you wanna say, no talk, I am, uh, we're not Laia junior and no who twiddle and stuff. And, uh, so that'd be enough. The short of it is that, uh, I'm fair person who was signed by SNCC, go to sell Alabama. I was director, the Selma Alabama was killed. There were three of us that assassin in Louisiana. He was one. Okay. Ben, my friend in Mississippi was the second. And that was the third that was attacked the same night that he was killed and tried to kill.

Speaker 1 (01:22:18):

So, uh, in terms of organizing, I can tell you about how to organize, but we can't have a workshop. I wanna be respectful of responding to you to, there are some basic principles of organizing and a lot of people in this room share those with you. And I think we have to figure out a way that we can set up, okay, this kind of, um, workshop for institutes and that kinda thing for the young people, not just this person that's, but I'm talking about young people everywhere. So we lost Nick. We are celebrating the founder of it, but I'm still trying to find out how we lost it. Okay. I don't mind celebrating 50 years look at us and we've around.

Speaker 1 (01:23:09):

Years' young here. There are several basic principles organizing. The first thing you have. And so you don't love people. You don't respect them. You can't help them. That's what's happening to our young people today against each other. They feel no love and no respect. You don't happen. They give nothing back. They give no love. They give no respect. They see no love and respect something. Okay. First thing, second thing you got to do is listen to folk mm-hmm <affirmative>. That's why it was successful. They spent time sitting on the porch. Mm-hmm <affirmative> out in the yard, was stopping them while they were stop and then why they would follow, you know, listening to them, being able to shut down your opinion. Okay. And your ideas, and try to tell them what to do and listen to them. The second thing you have to listen so hard until you put yourself in their place and be able to try you can't do it, but try to look at the world through their eyes.

Speaker 1 (01:24:27):

You can't begin to try to organize anything unless you understand. All right. And there's a whole workshop. Yeah, yeah. I, to give to you. All right. And I'm just give you an introduction to, yes. Now the next thing you have to do is you have to be able to get the people themselves, to organize themselves, you know, organize them. Only thing you can do is organize an inspiration and help. Some people learn how to organize each other all. Uh, and, and this is, is true. Not only here in the United States, but all the world, I believe the next week, going to South Africa and you know, we are done, we are training Nigerians. We're put down that weapons, some have killed large numbers of people they've put down their weapons. Now they've embraced nonviolence as a way of public. All right. And these are the night of Delta.

Speaker 1 (01:25:26):

First thing we did was we got them out of the night of Delta into Legos. And they told us point blank. If you, if this is a trick name, a trick over there or lie by the trick, okay? They said, this is a trick that's gonna kill you. And my response was, I understand what you said. I want you to understand what I'm saying. Sit down and listen. Okay, now let's talk. So we got to be able now, now, uh, the last point I want to make, this is not the last point of organizing. Okay. Is you've got to work on replacing yourself. Mm-hmm <affirmative> one, there are two basic mistakes, those of up and SN made. Mm-hmm <affirmative> the best thing we can do for you at our age is to share our mistakes. We can tell you the dead end street, so you don't have to waste your time going down there cause you dead end street may end up in the parking lot of this funeral.

Speaker 1 (01:26:27):

We lost perfectly. He can go down a whole list of people who did get killed. You see my point and I am not surprised that the Mor didn't get killed. They see the people we're talking about is the base. Those folks, you talking Mississippi. I know them. You know why? Cause I've got a lot of them in jail. Those folks, you name them here. They were on the freedom ride. They didn't get on the bus. They just brought in the station and Jackson, Mississippi never rode a bus, but you went on the freedom ride. Yeah. That's what they were arrested for. Right. And after you pay a fair, they have a free ride for jail. So what I'm talking about here is we have to replace ourselves. We replace yourself with replace yourself with these young folks. So you are the most important people in this room.

Speaker 1 (01:27:19):

Okay? Not at all. We did I think. And we still work that indicated here with the Nigerian and stuff like that. I need some, I need some workers right now, some train nonviolent, uh, trainers. Alright. Who can train other folks? So they pass me now to train thousand, that period, I came here to recruited those of you, young folks who want to okay. Do something have changed the world. Okay. All right. That's what I'm talking about here. And, and, and my email mm-hmm <affirmative> is, uh, I am the big cat, L I O N T H E B I G C a T yahoo.com. And I'm here looking for you, I'm here. You know what I ain't going say, Yahoo, you gonna send you get those check with me and, and we need to, that's what we need to be doing all over United States.

Speaker 1 (01:28:45):

Do I just want to, with those of us who heard over lunch and speak, speak some very hard truths that are difficult to listen to with all the more true for that reason. Right? And listen to the young people in this room who raise questions about organizing that probably agree with me that a more significant direction this discussion can take is to how the youth, the owners of the future would set the boat, right? The rounds we have been unable to correct. And dealing with the society that we are leaving for them. And there's somebody in the room who has been doing precise with that, and who can address the question of the youth much better than anybody on this panel. And she's from perhaps the greatest political organizer that country, which Moses the questions of organizing. So my name is Micha Moses, and I'm sorry, I came in at the end of this discussion. I didn't hear any of the questions. Um, so, and I don't know, organizing youth is a huge subject. Um, I work with the young people's project and it's descended from algebra project that my started, which is other folks in sick. And so we inherited that work and we tried to carry on in the area of education, organizing young people to work with other young people around math literacy.

Speaker 1 (01:30:48):

So that's what I do. Um, I don't know if there's a specific question that, that somebody has right tomorrow. Um, most of the day I think is focused on what young people are doing today. And there are a number of different organizations and, and youth groups that will be speaking about their work. So I think there'll be more opportunity to get more in depth into this thank Gill. Um, Jake Gillon, um, I don't know, there aren't any young people from Baltimore algebra project in the

Speaker 2 (01:31:34):

Room.

Speaker 1 (01:31:38):

So I think that's a group that everybody should know about. Um, there are young people who have taken to the streets for years to try to demand quality education for themselves and their peers in Baltimore. And I think there's something that's happening with young people in the country around education. I don't know if you're aware, um, what happened on March 4th, there was a national idea of action for education and kids as young as fifth graders, you know, walked outta school and March for education. So I think there's some energy, um, something that's sort of percolating above.

Speaker 1 (01:32:18):

Thank you very much. Yeah. I, I have a question. My name is Margaret with Pacific radio in Southern California, but came to journalism by way activism. And I wanted the panelist perhaps, um, any young people to respond to the challenge that Carrie Ponte gave in his speech, which I think we all have to take very seriously of what you're saying about the threat to voting rights in this country, which is extremely serious. At the same time, we see the rise of this tea party movement. And in addition to what you are proposing, um, you know, that support for Eric Holder fine. And there was one other thing, you, you continued support the voting rights and the

right felons to vote and the right felons to vote. But I really, um, think part of the frustration and tension that I'm sensing not only in this workshop, but in the workshops generally are what the young people are raising in terms of what is it that we're facing now and how can we use the lessons of the past to build the kind of movement that's needed because our lives are all under threat.

Speaker 1 (01:33:42):

And that's what I got from what Harry Beon was saying very serious time. And I understand we have to honor those who have made this great movement and have inspired people like myself to get up each and every day for the last few decades to do the very tough work of organizing and something that young people. I mean, it is a long term struggle. It's not anything that we're gonna, you know, do overnight. But I think that that's part of the energy and part of what he was challenging us to do in these workshops that we talk about the lessons in the past, but that we immediately look to see, how are we going to go about building the kind of Fu of challenge to the very serious threat that you are talking about? Not only in relation to voting rights, but in relation to our very existence.

Speaker 1 (01:34:34):

You know what I'm saying? I know iGen, I wanna respond. First of all, Moses, I watched them do their training in Jackson, Mississippi. No one does it better. I know, I know how to do training. I want to say, I want to, we're closing this meeting now and I want to close it with one message. There should be no age differential between people who are organizing change. If you are old enough to be oppressed, you are old enough to fight oppression. I don't want us to run into a fight or say, well, you too old, you can't help us organize. We, our future depends on how well we organize and I'm gonna take it for granted that there's no objection to these recommendations meeting close.