

We Believe

- that you are a person who prefers to do right rather than wrong when you are shown the difference between the two
- that you are interested in the welfare and growth of the state of Mississippi
- that you would prefer to see state time, money, and energy spent in a constructive manner which would benefit all rather than so much wasted in "keeping the Negro down" which now happens
- that you know that old racial customs and traditions are changing fast all over the world today. The revolution is not going to pass Mississippi. We believe that you know this
- that every adult of sound mind should have a voice in his government without discrimination or favoritism because of race. Therefore our slogan; One man - One Vote by 64
- that all people (Negro, white, or whatever) should be free to choose their own friends and not be forced through segregation laws to associate openly with one group and secretly with another
- in equality before the law; that justice should be meted out according to the evidence or lack of evidence of criminal acts - not according to the color of a man's skin
- that you abhor the increasing tide of police brutality which is blackening the name of the state of Mississippi (innocent Negro men, women and children have been jailed, beaten, and fined outrageous fees for simply acting like human beings. Thousands of others have been killed for the same reason.) We don't feel that all Mississippians condone such acts. We hope that you don't.
- that the Federal government and the rest of the country have failed to help Mississippi to grow and develop. It has been neglected like a spoiled child who is allowed by its parents to destroy itself. Our movement for freedom and human dignity includes in its program a sense of responsibility - a respect for mankind and God the Creator. We have enough respect for the spirit of brotherhood under the fatherhood of God that we have faced the possibility of death from those who misunderstand our program. We hope that with your help the misunderstanding can be erased and all people

live without fear, hatred and distrust.

-that you know it is unchristian and undemocratic to deliberately keep good education, good housing, good jobs, and protection of the law away from a person because of his color

-that with proper planning and cooperation Mississippi can provide a decent living for all of its citizens. No one, black or white, whose forefathers have lived and struggled to create a good economy here should be forced to move out of the state to make a decent living today.

-we believe in working with the people of a community or area to help them achieve justice and democracy for all citizens. That is why we write to you.

-that love is stronger than hate

-that you should know that we are not a bunch of communists or "outside agitators", but a group of Americans black & white (the majority of whom are native Mississippians and/or southerners) whose number increases daily - who are concerned about the hard life of Negroes and others in this state; the serious problem of race hatred among people of this state; and the standing and well-being of the whole country which is in jeopardy because of the conditions here and elsewhere. We intend to do all we can through non-violent means to solve these problems.

-that you appreciate being informed of our position and we invite you to help us in all ways you can to see that a smooth change takes place. Mississippi, the South, and the Country can require no less of you.

'WE'LL NEVER TURN BACK'

SCLC, SNCC, AND NAACP

Annell Ponder

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Field Secretary (SCLC)

Samuel Block

Samuel Block
Field Secretary (SNCC)

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