

COAHOMA COUNTY BRANCH  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
COLORED PEOPLE

October 8, 1962

Dear Friend and Supporter of Freedom:

We should all take pride in the exemplary manner that Mr. James Meredith has conducted himself as a student at the University of Mississippi during the past week. We should also understand that the mass confusion on the campus at the University was not the activity of the Administration, faculty, and students. Some students did participate in the confusion, but with the news media and "advice" available to them, how could we expect little else?

For those of us involved in the Freedom Struggle and Negroes in general, this is no time for gloating and bragging. Our aim must never be to defeat or humiliate our white oppressors, but to win their friendship and understanding. Out of this turmoil we pray will grow a true peace. True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice. The tension we see in Clarksdale and Mississippi today is the necessary tension that comes when oppressed people rise up and start to move forward toward a permanent, positive peace.

The surest method we can employ to secure and insure this permanent positive peace is to make every effort to become a registered voter. The campaign for this area will pick up a new momentum this week and we solicit the cooperation of everyone in seeing to it that all Negroes over the age of twenty - one (21) become registered. At least they MUST make an attempt to register. To make an attempt will aid you tremendously in the near future to become registered even if you do not succeed when you go to the Circuit Clerk's Office and make an effort. Do not be discouraged by the large number of Negroes that are being turned down. If you try, VICTORY IS ASSURED!

With the vote we can vote for a better Clarksdale, Coahoma County and Mississippi because we can vote for men who have good christian motivations, that will be fair and seek justice for all. Today no one can win at the ballot box after advocating equality for all mankind. Many of our white brothers and sisters are really better persons at heart than they demonstrate politically. They know however they can not demonstrate the goodness that is in them if they expect to keep the political job that they have been elected to or wish to be elected to. Once they feel confident that they can win, and at the same time advocate equality and justice for all, we will have and see a better day. The city of Memphis, Tennessee proves this. Memphis has become a changed city in the last three years. We can and must do the same thing for Clarksdale, Coahoma County and Mississippi.

We must continue to support the protest movements designed to rid the community of segregation, discrimination, discourtesy, unemployment, and racial bigotry. These things we must do by every legal and honorable means. Our road has been long and rocky but in the short distance we see victory, where the wicked will cease from troubling and the weary will be at rest.

IN THE MEANTIME WE MUST CONTINUE TO WORK AND NEVER GET WEARY.

✓ \*YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING AND DISCUSSING OUR TOTAL PROBLEM WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE NAACP ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 14, 1962, AT THE HAVEN METHODIST CHURCH AT 3:30 P. M., CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI. (THE BOARD WILL MEET IN A CLOSED SESSION AT 2:00 P. M.) IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO ADDRESS YOU AND BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE TOTAL PROGRAM.

\*\*\*\*\*ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT MEETING WILL BE THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING MEETING OF THE COAHOMA COUNTY BRANCH OF THE NAACP. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 28, 1962. THE TIME AND PLACE WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER. EVERY MEMBER AND FRIEND OF THE NAACP ARE ASKED TO MAKE AT LEAST A \$5.00 CONTRIBUTION AT THIS MEETING. REMEMBER THE MEREDITH CASE HAS ALREADY COST THE NAACP UPWARDS OF \$30,000.00. LET EVERY INDIVIDUAL, CHURCH, AND ORGANIZATION PLAY ITS PART IN THIS PHASE OF THE FREEDOM CAUSE TOO. YOU WILL RECEIVE ANOTHER LETTER RELATIVE TO THIS SESSION.

REMEMBER, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE! WE MUST WORK AND PAY FOR IT.

AARON E. HENRY, PRESIDENT, MISSISSIPPI STATE CONFERENCE NAACP

N. B. The weekly mass meeting for Wed. Night Oct. 10th. at Mt. Mariah Church