

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
MISSISSIPPI STATE CONFERENCE NAACP BRANCHES

17th Annual Session
November 1-4, 1962

C O N F E R E N C E S T A T E M E N T

The Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP convening in Jackson, Mississippi, November 1-4, 1962 takes this opportunity to express appreciation to the national office and the entire national staff of the NAACP for its support and guidance during the past year. We would like to make special mention of the aid and assistance given us by Mr. Roy Wilkins, Mr. Robert Carter, Mr. Gloster B. Current, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Mr. W. C. Patton, Mr. Laplois Ashford, and Mrs. Kulie Wright. Also, to our State Legal Counsel, headed by Mr. Jack Young, which has done a magnificent job, for which we are grateful.

The activities of the NAACP in Mississippi this year have met with many successes. The wonderful cooperation of Mr. Medgar W. Evers, Field Secretary and Aaron E. Henry, State President has meant a great deal to the success of the overall program. There appears to be a new determination on the part of ministers and other professionals together with the lay people that for many years have carried the burden of freedom to really push for success.

Because of the difficulty of registering and voting in most sections of Mississippi, the Conference endorsed the idea of seeking a National Registration to Vote Act; which would compel the registration of every citizen when he becomes 21 years old to register to vote. Boards would be set up in each state and each county in the state to handle this registration. Just as is done on the National level in the Service Registration Act that compels a boy when he reaches 18 years old to register for the Armed Service of his Country. We never hear of a board refusing to register an 18 year old Negro boy for the armed service and we feel that sufficient Federal control can be had to prevent any board from refusing to register any Citizen when he becomes 21. That is, if the Federal Government sets its mind to it.

We express our appreciation to the Federal Government for its action that finally resulted in the enrollment of Mr. James H. Meredith, in the University of Mississippi and his being able to remain there. We regret that this action was necessary, but, we were not surprised. We have been trying to alert the Federal Government to our predicament here in Mississippi for sometime. We feel sure that now the Federal Government is convinced that in Mississippi the lawless element is a different breed, and has to be dealt with, as such.

We express our sincere appreciation to Mr. James Meredith, for his courage, determination and valor, who, in the midst of the most difficult circumstances has demonstrated the manhood that will help carry us all to Freedom.

We took cognizance of the most frequent utterance by the white racist of Mississippi that the reason Negroes are clamouring for First Class Citizenship is his desire for miscegenation, (sex across racial lines). In order to put this lie to rest forever, we are searching for a sponsor of the following proposal by some member of the legislature of Mississippi.

No person guilty of miscegenation, (sex across racial lines) will be eligible to hold public office. Any person guilty of miscegenation, in his past life that now holds public office, will step aside and some one else will take his place. This bill will apply to Governors, Attorney Generals, State Senators, Members of the Legislature, Sheriffs, Policemen, and all elected and hired or appointed public officials.

We feel certain that the enactment and enforcement of the above mentioned bill on the State level, would render most of our communities without any officials, but, unless a sponsor of the bill steps forth and guides it through the legislature for passage, we will continue to know just who the ones are that most interested in miscegenation.

The following two resolutions were adopted: . #1 National Guards

WHEREAS, We the members and delegates of the Mississippi State Conference of NAACP, are happy that the armed might of our great country has been brought into play to eliminate a serious threat to communist aggression ninety miles off our shores, in Cuba; We commend the President of the United States for his forthright leadership during this crisis. However, the continued discrimination against Negro Americans in the Armed Forces Reserves and the Mississippi National Guards is a weak link in our chain of defense. Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that we call upon the President of the United States of America to act as swiftly to completely eliminate segregation and discrimination in the Armed Forces Reserves and the Mississippi National Guards as he acted in the Cuban Crisis.

Resolution # 2 Poll Tax and Literacy Test

WHEREAS, We the members and delegates of the Mississippi State Conference of NAACP, call upon and urge all of the legislatures of the fifty states of America to take immediate and positive actions to ratify the actions of the 87th Congress as it relates to the unconstitutionality of the use of the poll tax as a requisite to voting.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that we urge the President, the Justice Department, and the Congress of the United States to take immediate steps to eliminate the literacy test and other impediments to voting in Mississippi as well as other Southern States.

Finally, the Mississippi State Conference expresses its appreciation to all members and friends within the State of Mississippi and call your attention to the three areas of concentration for this year.

- a) Discrimination in Employment.
- b) Desegregation on all levels including the public schools.
- c) Registration to Vote Campaigns.

All Branches are expected to participate in the total program this year.

Awards were given to the following branches in the following areas:

Finance- 1960, 61, and 1962 Coahoma County, Jackson, Hattiesburg

Memberships- 1960, 61 and 1962 Jackson, Coahoma County, McComb

Voter Registration - 1960, 61, and 1962 - Laurel, Hattiesburg, Biloxi
Jackson, Meridian, Cleveland, McComb.
and Leake County Branches.

Civil Rights 1960, 61, and 1962 Coahoma County, Jackson, Leake County.

Memberships reported since September 15, 1962 - Jackson, Coahoma
County and Hattiesburg.

Best News-letter (1962) North Jackson Youth Council, Coahoma County

Membership Increase (1961 over 1960) - Prentiss 300% Meridian 147%
Florence 140%

Freedom Fund Contributions (1961) Jackson, Clarksdale, Hattiesburg

The following persons were elected to guide the Conference this year:

Dr. Aaron E. Henry, President

Mr. Samuel Bailey, First Vice-President

Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, Second Vice-President

Dr. B. E. Murph, Third Vice-President

Mr. Amzie Moore, Fourth Vice-President

Mr. C. C. Braynt, Fifth Vice-President

Mr. R. L. Drew, Sixth Vice-President

Rev. J. M. Barnes, Seventh Vice-President

Miss Mary A. Cox, Secretary

Miss Essie Randle, Assistant Secretary

Mr. John W. Dixon, Treasurer

Board Members at large: Attorney Carsie A. Hall

Mr. John Salter

Rev. Charles A. Jones

State Youth Advisor: Mrs. Vera M. Pigeo

(* Each Branch President, Adult advisors to
Youth Councils and College Chapters)