

(SACC)

Committee to Elect Aaron Henry Governor of Mississippi  
Freedom Vote for Governor  
Forrest County Headquarters  
507 Mobile Street  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

### THE FREEDOM BALLOT

#### WHY ARE WE HOLDING A FREEDOM VOTE?

The Freedom Vote - in which all citizens may cast ballots - will show the world that there are thousands of Mississippians who are dissatisfied with their government, but who are powerless to do anything about it. It will show that we want to participate in our own government. It will show that we have been disenfranchised. It will show that Mississippi's officials do not represent the people, and it will discredit them forever.

#### WHY ARE WE RUNNING AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR?

Because for too long our elected officials have not represented our interests. They have only spoken for the small percentage of Mississippi which profits from the system of oppression which keeps us illiterate and offers our children no hope for the future. We are conducting a write-in campaign for Aaron Henry and Ed King for these offices because we believe they will represent all the people in our state, and because we believe they represent an attempt at solving Mississippi's many problems.

#### WHAT ARE SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS?

1. Only 6% of Mississippi qualified voters participate in general elections. We must increase the participation in Mississippi political affairs by abolishing the poll tax and by changing the pattern of systematic exclusion of Negroes. We can begin to change the oppressive social and economic system which segregation supports by gaining and using the ballot.
2. The illiteracy and poverty of Mississippi people, black and white. Mississippi has the highest rate of illiteracy of any state, with the average schooling of Mississippi white people being only 11 years, and the average for Negroes only 6 years. TOO, income for Mississippi people is the lowest of any state in the union, both farm and industrial. Did you know that 51% of all Mississippians people earn less than \$3,000 per year, and that 37% of the people earn less than \$2,000, or less than a living wage?
3. Our educational standards are deplorably low. Mississippi spends less money on her school facilities, teacher salaries, and on her students. In addition, Mississippi wastes school funds by maintaining two school systems, and one for white, another for Negro pupils. There are many schools which are not accredited and textbooks are poor. Negro students must seek graduate degrees outside of the state. The effect is that talented people who are Mississippi's greatest resource leave our state.
4. Our Economic problems are overwhelming. We must seek new industry for our state and train our people for employment in these industries. We must solve the problem of automation on the farms in the Delta which is throwing people out of work and causing them to leave their

homes. We must raise the income level of all Mississippi people and re-balance the tax structure so that more of the cost of financing state programs is borne by those people who are able to afford it.

5. There is no equality before the law, or civil liberties in Mississippi. Freedom to peacefully assemble, to protest by picketing and demonstrations are rights guaranteed by the constitution which are violated consistently by our state officials. Too, all too frequently Mississippi citizens are arrested on pretexts, thrown into jails without being charged, tried without proper legal counsel and sentenced to long jail terms, all of which violate basic constitutional rights. There is a double standard of justice in Mississippi too, one standard for the Negro and another for the white. There are few Negroes who serve on juries in the state, and few Negro lawyers to handle our legal cases. The problem of police brutality in our jails and our penal institutions is an outrage which has been documented by the Mississippi Advisory Committee to the Civil Rights Commission. Our citizens have been beaten and tortured in our jails, and in some instances, murdered. Too, there is no freedom to discuss intelligently the problems of our state. School teachers have been fired for taking part in controversial issues, or even attempting to register to vote. We must strive to institute in our state these basic freedoms not only because they are our rights, but because we can never solve Mississippi's other problems if we do not.

**HERE IS WHAT AARON HENRY AND ED KING ADVOCATE:**

1. That universal suffrage be immediately established.

2. That all schools be desegregated by 1965.

3. That a crash program be begun to improve all phases of our economy.

4. That a State Fairness Commission be established to insure non-discrimination in jobs, public places, and public accommodations.

5. That the following steps be taken to insure full and fair employment in Mississippi:

- a. A just minimum wage.
- b. The repeal of anti-labor laws, particularly the right to organize.

6. That the state election be held on October 11th through November 4th (no ballots will be counted after the 11th of November).

7. Our Economic Problem: **ONE MAN-ONE VOTE.** We must seek new industry for our state and train our people for employment in these industries. We must solve the problem of automation on the farms in the Delta which is throwing people out of work and causing them to leave their