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TWO RUN IN MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM VOTE

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI- Mississippi's disenfranchised Negroes will be asked to cast their ballots November 2 through 4 in a "Freedom Vote" campaign.

The two candidates, state NAACP head Dr. Aaron Henry and Tougaloo College dean Rev. Edwin King, are asking Mississippians to vote for them in mock polling places in churches, barber shops and schools. Mississippi's registered voters are being asked to cast write-in ballots for the Henry - King slate at regular polling places during the November 5 election. Although state election officials have declared that write-ins will not be counted unless both Democratic and Republican candidates die before election day, both candidates are determined to continue.

Henry, who is making a speech-a-night tour of the state, said his campaign was aimed at giving Mississippi a real choice between candidates. Both Democratic and Republican candidates have adhered to a strict segregationist line, urging voters to elect them to insure "keeping Mississippi white".

The Henry-King candidacy has also been the beginning of a statewide political organization, which will continue to register voters and educate Negroes politically after the election.

Bob Moses, head of Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Mississippi vote drive and campaign manager for the Freedom Vote slate, said "Mississippi's so-called two-party politics means no politics for thousands of Negroes across the state".

"The Freedom Vote campaigners have four major issues - justice, education, economics and voting rights," Moses said.

Henry is president of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), and Moses is director. COFO was organized by national and statewide civil rights groups in Mississippi to coordinate voter activity in the state.

COFO leaders hope the mock elections and the write-in votes will serve to emphasize the desire Mississippi Negroes have to register to vote.

During Reconstruction, Negroes served as Lieutenant Governors of South Carolina, Louisiana and Mississippi. Two Negroes, Blanche K. Bruce and Hiram Revels, represented Mississippi in the United States Senate.

Only 6.1% of Mississippi's eligible Negroes are registered voters. Negroes comprise 36.1% of the state population. In 6 counties here, no Negroes are registered, the Civil Rights Commission reported in 1963.

The Atlanta based Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has conducted vote drives in Mississippi since 1961. SNCC has initiated a "One Man-One Vote" campaign across the South aimed at removing all barriers to Negro registration except residence and age.