

PARENTS MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

504 G Street SE

Washington, D.C.

202 547-8522

or 547-8524

Dear Parents:

We who send you this letter, like you, are parents of young people participating in COFO's Mississippi Summer Project. Proud as we are of our sons and daughters, we are nevertheless concerned about their safety and the safety of the citizens of Mississippi with whom they are working this summer. We are sure that you have already taken action, as we have, to secure protection for them, but we would like to report to you our activities up to date.

1. We are enclosing a copy of our press release and a letter from Boston legal authorities, presented at a press conference in Washington on June 24, for which we received national TV, radio and newspaper coverage. This conference was arranged with the help of the Washington Human Rights Project, and we have been assured that groups of parents will have no difficulty in arranging local press conferences. If you need guidance, contact your local Civil Rights organizations or Mr. Tom Leatherwood or Mr. Ron Wilmore at 202-547-8522 or 8524.

2. Since we have been in Washington this week, (we are parents from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts and Washington D.C.), we have been successful in arranging interviews with Nicholas Katzenbach, Deputy Attorney General of the U.S., Lee White, Assistant to President Johnson, Senators Keating and Javits of N.Y., Speaker of the House John McCormick, Representative Rold and Ryan of N.Y., as well as assistants of Senators Case and Williams of N.J., Senator Saltonstall of Mass., Senator Humphrey of Minn., Sen. Brewster of Maryland and Rep. Osners of N.J. IT IS MOST URGENT THAT CONGRESSMEN RECEIVE DELEGATIONS FROM THEIR CONSTITUENTS, as well as concerned citizens who feel that all Congressmen represent all the people of the United States. NOTE: In the event that your son or daughter is arrested, notify your Senator and Congressman immediately and ask them to telephone the jail. We have been advised on Capitol Hill that such a phone call from Washington is effective.

3. Fortunately, the NAACP National Convention is now in progress in Washington and we have talked with many leaders of that organization. Their members are enthusiastically supporting us and already many, many telegrams have gone to the President asking for Federal Marshals to be sent to Mississippi.

4. By means of this letter, we are contacting parents nationally. Enclosed is a list of participants in your state. Will you take the responsibility of contacting other parents immediately to organize group action? This is a MUST! The White House and Capitol Hill must know that large numbers of people want them to act before any other tragedies occur. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (June 30, July 1 and 2) are vitally important. We need more people to bring the necessary pressure and it is most urgent that parents and friends from every state converge on Washington to lobby for all available protection immediately.

We are certain that your emphasis, as is ours, will be that the Federal Government can and MUST assume responsibility for the protection of its citizens any place in the Union. We have asked for Federal Marshals to be sent to Mississippi. If you have any additional ideas or suggestions please let us know.

Yours in freedom,  
Parents Mississippi Emergency Committ

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#### THINGS TO DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY

1. Call all other parents in your area and organize. Please send us a corrected list of participants and parents as soon as possible.
  2. Arrange a press conference. (If you need help, let us know.)
  3. Letters and wires to the President, Attorney-General, Congressmen, Senators, and local officials urging that Federal powers be used to protect the people in Mississippi.
  4. Ask your friends, neighbors, community leaders and clergy to ACT.
  5. Begin to arrange for trip to Washington -- together if possible. We have found that it is very easy to organize parents around this matter.
- NOTE: Make sure Congress is in session on the day you plan to come.
6. Raise funds to support your activities and ours.

#### THINGS TO DO IN WASHINGTON

1. Check in with Tom Leatherwood or Ron Wilmore at the above address.
2. See your Congressman and all other Congressmen from your state. See your Senators.
3. Demand an interview with top officials of the Justice Department.
4. Since the Federal Government has clear powers to act, insist on a meeting at the White House.
5. We can help to arrange a press conference in Washington if you come with a state delegation.
6. Bring letters or other material from your son and daughter about what is happening in Mississippi to use in your interviews.