

OFFICE ONLY

MEMO: TO FRIENDS OF FREEDOM IN MISSISSIPPI, FREEDOM CENTERS, AND OTHERS.

RE: JUNE 9 HEARING AND JUNE 10 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Present plans call for the following:

A 4-hour hearing in Washington, D. C. on June 9 with people from Mississippi, staff and local people, who will testify about the violation of civil rights in the state, and from constitutional lawyers (and others) who will testify about the correctness of Presidential intervention and protection in Mississippi for the summer and in the future;

Morning visits (on June 9) to congressmen by summer workers and/or their parents asking for support in seeking the President's protection;

An afternoon press conference (on June 9) with summer workers and/or their parents who will report on the visits they made with their congressmen.

A meeting on June 10 with President L. B. Johnson, with COFO workers (and people from the Freedom Democratic Party) and representatives from the organizations comprising COFO. (COFO is sponsoring the hearing and the meeting with the President; the other groups are acting as supporters);

Perhaps, a rally on the evening of June 9 to explain the purpose of the hearing and the presidential visit.

Things to be done:

FREEDOM CENTERS in the Northeast area need to begin now organizing to send summer workers they have recruited through Washington on June 9. Parents groups should be set up for this project also; they will be helpful for support action throughout the summer. (If parents cannot come, they should send a letter or petition to President Johnson and hold a press conference in their city on June 10, to coincide with the Washington meeting.)

SUMMER WORKERS should hold press conferences in their cities before leaving for Washington (or the orientation session, if they cannot come to Washington). They should emphasize the summer project and the need for Presidential protection.

FREEDOM CENTERS should look at the June 9 - 10 events as a beginning of summer support action.

FREEDOM CENTERS, SUMMER WORKERS, AND OTHERS should work toward getting church, labor, civil rights, community and other groups to issue statements supporting the summer project and calling for Presidential protection.

(sources for information on Presidential power are: The Federal Government and Civil Rights, and Executive Support of Civil Rights, both published by the Southern Regional Council, 5 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia, the United States Civil Rights Commission's Recommendations, Dr. Howard Zinn's piece in The Correspondent, November - December, 1963, and Dr. M. L. King's Nation article, March 9, 1964. We will try to make re-prints of these last available to you).

If you have any ideas, suggestions, criticisms, please send them by return air mail special to:

Bond
SNCC
6 Raymond Street, N. W.
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Remember, the hearing and meeting are both sponsored entirely by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO).

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