

Temporary State Executive Committee
of the
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Minutes of Meeting Held Sunday, June 7, 1954.

Dr. Aaron Henry presiding.

Meeting was called to order. A prayer was offered by Rev. Smith. There were no minutes of the previous meeting.

The committee decided that five members, three of whom are either officers or committee heads, would constitute a quorum.

Mr. Charles Evers became an advisor to the committee by vote of the committee.

A discussion of the political structure of the Freedom Democratic Party was held. The following decisions were approved by the committee:

1) The precinct structure as it presently exists under the Mississippi Democratic party will remain the same. The precinct conventions may be held in conjunction with the county convention in any county so desiring.

2) Persons eligible for office in the Freedom Democratic Party will be those persons who have registered in the Freedom Registration and who subscribe to the policies of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Freedom Registration may be completed at any time.

3) Dates of conventions:

Precinct and County	June 17 through July 21
District	July 24
State	July 26 in Jackson

Places for the district conventions will be decided at the next Exec. Com. meeting.

4) Each precinct shall have 10 votes in the county convention. The votes may be fractured according to any scheme determined by the precinct.

5) Each county will have twice as many votes in the district and state conventions as the number of representatives that county has in the state legislature. The delegates to the district convention automatically serve as delegates to the state convention.

6) Each county will elect a County Executive Committee.

7) Each member of the State Executive Committee of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party is to be a delegate of the precinct and county in which he lives.

8) The Freedom Democratic Party will send as many delegates to the Democratic national convention as are prescribed under convention rules.

9) The officers of the Executive Committee shall be a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary, an assistant secretary, and a treasurer. The chairman may appoint committee chairmen as the need for them arises.

10) Delegates' expenses to meetings shall be borne by the unit the delegates represent, whenever possible.

11) Official meetings on the precinct, county, district, and state level will be those meetings which have been cleared through the Freedom Democratic Party.

Mr. Charles Evers consented to work with Rev. Smith to raise funds for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Copies of these proceedings will be made and sent to each member of the Executive Committee.

Dave Dennis gave a brief statement about the prospects for the Freedom Democratic Party, stressing the importance of the state executive committee in the event that any recognition should be given the party on the national level.

The executive committee agreed to try to set up an office for the Freedom Democratic Party in Jackson. The office is to be staffed by full-time COFO workers and local volunteers. Towards setting up

the office the following gifts and loans were made to the party:

Charles Evers	\$50 loan	Herman Kinney	\$10 gift
Aaron Henry	10 loan	C. Knight	5 loan
J.M. Houston	10 loan	P. Taylor	5 loan
A. Devine	5 loan	E. Smith	10 loan

Mrs. Hall and Mr. Robinson will send \$10 loans by Friday, June 12.

A checking account is to be opened in the name of the Freedom Democratic Party. The checks will have to be signed twice, by A. Henry and by Rev. Smith.

A three man review board was chosen. This board has the power to make all decisions between meetings of the executive committee. Members of the board are Mrs. Devine, Rev. Smith, and Dr. Henry.

The next meeting of the executive committee will be 9 a.m. Sunday, July 5 (first Sunday in July).