

[1964]

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TO: The State Executive Committee and Staff Members

At a meeting held on July 9 (Rev. R. J. T. Smith and Dr. W. McCord present), the sub-committee charged with drafting tentative proposals for the platform of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party discussed a possible program of the party. We attempted to make the language of the proposals clear and precise. We also tried to direct the proposals specifically to the Mississippi situation. As a tentative draft, we hope that the Executive Committee will consider the following resolutions:

Tentative Draft

Platform and Principles of the Mississippi
Freedom Democratic Party

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Freedom Democratic Party welcomes the participation of all citizens of the state of Mississippi.
2. That we wholeheartedly endorse the program embodied in the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 and that we encourage both state and national officials to implement the principles of this law.
3. That we encourage all officials of the state and national governments to ensure the impartial registration of all qualified voters in the state of Mississippi. We urge vigorous enforcement of the civil rights laws to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens in all areas of the country.
4. That we vigorously support the Supreme Court school desegregation decision of 1954 and urge that immediate measures should be undertaken by the state and national governments to guarantee that the law will be followed in the state of Mississippi.
5. That we urge careful consideration of the use of federal funds in Mississippi to ensure that such grants will not be used for the perpetuation of segregation.
6. That we advocate careful supervision of the use of federal funds in order that the withholding of federal funds will not be used as a means to threaten and harrass Mississippi citizens who try to exercise their constitutional rights.
7. That we advocate action to prohibit discrimination in housing constructed with the aid of federal subsidies.
8. That we oppose the use of federal funds for the construction or maintenance of segregated community facilities in Mississippi.
9. That we advocate the establishment of a state Fair Employment Practices Committee to assist in reviewing cases of employment discrimination.

10. That we endorse the Supreme Court decision of 1964 which requires the fair apportionment of every legislative body from a town council through the United States Congress.
11. That we believe that social security insurance should be extended to every member of the population.
12. That we believe than an extensive job re-training program should be vigorously pursued by both the state and national governments in order that people who are victims of an era of economic transition may continue to be self-sufficient members of the community
13. That we applaud the start which has been made toward the amelioration of poverty under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in such measures as area re-development, a broadened minimum wage, manpower training, food stamp legislation, and the omnibus anti-poverty measure. We call for the intensification of these efforts during the next four years under continued liberal Democratic leadership.
14. That we firmly support the Platform and Principles of the National Democratic Party as stated in Convention at Los Angeles in August of 1960. Specifically, we fully endorse the following principles, particularly as they apply in the state of Mississippi:
 - a. We reaffirm support for full employment as a paramount objective of national policy and the necessity of federal aid to the stricken and depressed areas of Mississippi and the rest of the nation.
 - b. We reaffirm that strong state and national action is required to break down artificial and arbitrary barriers to employment based on race, age, sex, religion, or national origin.
 - c. We reaffirm that the right to a job requires forceful efforts for the restoration of full support for collective bargaining and the repeal of the anti-labor excesses which have been written into our labor laws.
 - d. We reaffirm the right of every farmer to raise and sell his products at a return which will give him and his family a decent living. Positive action must be taken to raise farm income to full parity levels and to preserve family farming as a way of life. We urge the use of the food stamp programs authorized to feed needy children, the aged, and the unemployeed and the expansion of school lunch and milk programs.
 - e. We reaffirm that medical care benefits should be provided as part of the time-tested Social Security insurance system.
15. That we pledge to support the candidates and principles adopted by the National Democratic Party at its convention in Atlantic City in August, 1964.

For purposes of comparison, one might examine the Platform adopted by the regular Mississippi State Democratic Party in June, 1960. Excerpts from the platform include the following statements of principle:

"We reject and oppose the platforms of both National Parties and their candidates."

"We expressly condemn the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Brown school case rendered May 17, 1954."

"We believe in States Rights and local self-government, and are unalterably opposed to any encroachment upon the rights of the states by the federal government, and upon county and municipal government by the state."

"We are opposed to any legislation, federal or state, setting up what is known as a Fair Employment Practices Committee."