

TO: Freedom School Convention planning committee, Freedom School coordinators, Project Directors

FROM: Staughton Lynd

RE: Mississippi Student Union - Freedom School Convention

On Saturday July 25, 17 young people together with 5 Freedom School teachers and coordinators met in Jackson to make plans for the Freedom School Convention in Meridian on August 8-9.

The young people present represented the communities of: Lexington, Greenwood, Meridian, Canton, Moss Point, Columbus, McComb, Vicksburg, Jackson and Greenville.

It was first decided that there should be a Freedom School Convention in Meridian August 8-9, with the purpose of drawing up a young peoples' political program. It was agreed that the Mississippi Student Union would co-sponsor the Convention. Also, those present agreed that delegates who wished to send a group to the Young Democratic national convention in Atlantic City the week-end of August 22, could stay an extra day (Monday August 10) in Meridian to make plans for doing this.

The following executive committee was then elected to plan the Freedom School Convention: Joyce Brown (chairman), Roscoe Jones (vice chairman), Malcolm Taylor (treasurer), Dorothy Gathright (assistant treasurer), Lelia Waterhouse (secretary), Delmar Henderson (assistant secretary). Miss Brown chaired the meeting from this point on.

The following decisions were made concerning the Convention:

1. Each community where there are Freedom Schools (not each school) should send three delegates. These delegates should bring with them the programs drafted in their communities. Coordinators should attempt to involve leaders among the young people who are not in Freedom School, as well as Freedom School students. The exact method of selecting delegates is left up to each coordinator.
2. Male delegates will probably be housed in the Meridian Freedom School and should bring sleeping bags, if possible. Female delegates will be the guests of the young people of Meridian.
3. Delegates should plan to arrive before dark Friday August 7. Registration will be at 9:30 Saturday morning and the Convention will begin at 10.
4. It is essential that as soon as possible you send the names of your delegates to Roscoe Jones, 910 22nd St., Meridian, and your estimated travel expense to Malcolm Taylor, 1113 Randolph St., Vicksburg. You will be recompensed for all or most of your travel expense before you leave Meridian. Please send copies of all letters to me in Jackson.
5. Robert Moses and Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer will be invited to address the Convention. In Write America will be played the night of Saturday Aug. 8.
6. The executive committee is reminded that it is expected to be in Meridian before dark Thursday August 6.
7. A sample program is enclosed to get everyone percolating.