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P.M.E.C. August 17, 1964

The Parents Mississippi Emergency Committee met in the home of the Ben Grahams at 8 PM on Monday, August 17th, 1964, Mr. Richard Wilson, presiding.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the minutes of the last regular meeting on August 10th not be read. The minutes of the Steering Committee meeting on August 12th were read in order to acquaint the members on the action taken by that Committee, and Mr. Wilson outlined matters to be brought before the meeting.

The following communications were read by Adele Siegel, Secretary:

- 1) Letter from Mr. John Coughney, visitor to our state, commending our support of the Mississippi Summer Project.
- 2) Letters of regret and appreciation, in response to our invitations to the Garden Reception, from the following: Lt. Gov. Glen Anderson, Congressman Don Edwards, and Mrs. Rosalind Wyman.
- 3) Letter from Congressman James Roosevelt to Mr. Richard Wilson, regarding protection of workers in Mississippi.
- 4) Letter from Bruce Hulse regarding visit to Mississippi.
- 5) Telegram regarding Ron Bridgeforth's arrest in Mississippi, and wire from Sen. Pierre Salinger on August 14, stating this was being investigated
- 6) Letter from The White House, dated August 10, in response to a wire to President Johnson, sent July 1st by the Parents group, asking protection for our sons and daughters in Mississippi.

Mrs. Neodes Bridgeforth gave what information she had concerning her son's arrest and release, with trial pending.

Due to the fact that Mr. Don Smith of CORE, had to leave early, the matter of the planned Memorial Service for the three Mississippi victims was taken up prior to Mr. Harold Johnson's arrival. Mr. Smith gave a report on the meeting between representatives of various interfaith religious groups and civil rights groups, at which it was finally agreed that the civil rights groups, - in this case, CORE and SNCC - would sponsor this service, to be held in the Holman Methodist Church, Los Angeles, at 5 PM on Sunday, August 23rd. The church groups will encourage their members to support the project. Mrs. Cogol's motion that the Parents Committee endorse this memorial service, was seconded by Mr. Graham and carried. Mr. Sidney Harris moved that the church groups be urged to continue, in their own way, with plans for a memorial service. This was seconded by Mr. Robert Hunn and carried.

Mr. Harold Johnson, our parent representative at the original memorial planning meetings, arrived, and after being apprised by Chairman Wilson of the discussion and action that had taken place, made his report.

Page 2

He expressed his personal feeling that this would have been an opportunity, not often available, for the churches to do something for civil rights, but that they felt they would not want to compete, and therefore agreed that sponsorship should be left with the civil rights groups.

Chairman Wilson reported on the Steering Committee's recommendation that we lend our name, as the Parents Group, to launch the "Adopt-a-Worker" Plan, providing the administration of funds thus collected, be handled by COFO.

Chairman Wilson announced that Mr. Edwin Wilson will be unable, because of business pressure, to go as our representative to hearings by the Resolutions and Platform Committee at the National Democratic Convention. We have been assigned a time (5:45 PM) and a date (Wed. Aug. 19) for appearing at those hearings. After discussion, Mrs. Joseph Rose moved that Mr. Harold Johnson be again asked to go. This was seconded by Mrs. Willard Hayden and carried. Mr. Johnson gave his tentative acceptance, depending upon his being able to clear certain previous appointments at this late date.

Mr. Graham's motion that Mrs. Martha Hard be designated as an alternate, was seconded and carried. She reportedly is in the Eastern United States at present and could be contacted, in the event of Mr. Johnson's inability to attend.

Mrs. Siegel reported on the money contributions still coming in from the Garden Party invitations, and suggested a small card of acknowledgement be sent to donors who have not been previously thanked by Mrs. Dick Wilson through personal notes, or by others who wrote individual acknowledgements. Mrs. Sidney Harris and Mrs. Milton Leiber volunteered to address and send these cards.

Mimeographed letters containing a resolution urging seating of the Freedom Democratic Party delegates and not the 'regular' Mississippi delegation, will be sent out immediately, upon motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mrs. Hayden and carried unanimously.

Mr. Louis Licht reported that only a few minutes earlier, he had been in telephone conversation with the COFO office in Greenwood, and was reassured that they had a lawyer on the Ron Bridgforth case and would know more tomorrow.

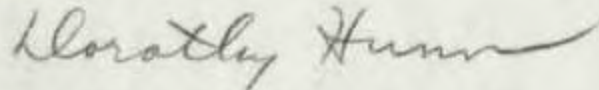
Mrs. Richard Wilson announced that plans were going ahead for a welcome-home party for our returning sons and daughters, to be held the first week in September, the maximum number of students being available at that time.

Last, but NOT least, business of the evening was the detailed first-hand account of the appearance before the Resolutions Committee in Sacramento, of students Chris Wilson and Bob Newberry. After their testimony regarding actual conditions in Mississippi, it was recommended to, and later adopted by, the State Central Committee, that the Freedom Democratic Party's delegates be seated at the National Convention instead of the 'regular' Mississippi delegation. Accompanying the students at the convention were Mrs. Siegel, Mrs. Newman, Mr. Richard Wilson and Mr. Paul

Albert, whose combined efforts were most productive.

After a vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Harris, for the group's exceptionally fine leadership, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Recording Secretary