Minutes, Aug. 31, 1964

The Parents Mississippi Emergency Committee met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Graham, on Monday, August 31st, at 8 PM, Mr. Arthur Carstens, presiding.

Minutes of the meeting on August 17th were read and approved.

Mr. Robert Hunn reported on the Steering Committee’s meeting on August 12th, at which the following action was taken: It was voted to send $200.00 to Mr. Paul Albert at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, inasmuch as he would function as our on-the-spot contact. Mr. Hunn also reported subsequent action by telephone and telegrams, as a direct result of Mr. Albert’s service. It was moved by Mrs. Judy Newman, seconded by Mrs. Ray Owen and carried unanimously that the Committee’s action be approved. Dr. Sidney Harris commended their prompt action.

Secretary Adele Siegel read (1) letter from COFO thanking the Parents group for contribution of $3,000.00; (2) letter to Mr. Carstens from William L. Becker, Asst. to the Governor, on Human Rights, regarding sending an observer to Mississippi from California, stating that California would be unable to comply with this request, and that they believe the presence of newsmen, who are in all the areas of the State of Mississippi, would better serve as a deterrent to violence. Discussion followed in which several students, recently returned from Mississippi, commented on effects of publicity and presence of newsmen as such a deterrent. Mr. Carstens proposed that the students form a committee to draft a letter, from their point of view, reflecting the importance of anything that the Governor can do to keep attention and pressure on Mississippi. Acting upon a suggestion by Mrs. Newbery that we write to LOOK Magazine, Mr. Dick Wilson moved, seconded by Mrs. Graham and carried, that we write “LOOK” as well as other similar magazines; commending their articles on Mississippi and urging continued coverage.

The Treasurer’s report was approved on motion by Mrs. Siegel, seconded by Mrs. Newman, and carried. Copy is attached herewith.

Mrs. Dick Wilson reported contributions in excess of $1500 were received, in response to the Wilsons’ personal campaign.

Questions arose as to the disposition of funds raised, - where and to what organization, and whether or not such donations are tax deductible. Mr. Hunn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dick Wilson, that we send $2,000.00, after we have a report, this being amended to the effect that the Student Committee will gather this information and turn it in to the Steering Committee for action. The motion as amended was carried.

Bills were submitted by Mr. Harold Johnson, Treasurer. On motion by Mr. Graham, seconded by Mr. Harris and carried unanimously, the Treasurer was authorized to pay all bills submitted, and other bills pending, up to $100, without approval by the group.

Mr. Klaus Brill was absent because of illness and could not report on his attendance as our representative, at a meeting of the Hollywood-Los Feliz Jewish Community Center.

Mrs. Dick Wilson reported on final plans for the Homecoming Party, to be held September 2nd, at the International Student Center, Westwood.

Mr. Harold Johnson’s report on his trip to Washington and appearance before the Democratic Platform Committee, was received with applause.
The Chairman informed the meeting of a resolution by Mr. and Mrs. Hunn, regarding reorganization and continuation of a Parents Committee to support the work in the South, and Mississippi in particular. He proposed that another meeting be given over to this matter, stressing the importance of allowing sufficient time for proper consideration, and this was so moved by Mr. Graham. By agreement of those present, Mr. Hunn was asked to read the resolution, copies of which will be made and sent out with the Newsletter, before the special meeting on Sept. 8th.

Mr. Dick Wilson reported on the Bail Fund, stating that it should be dissolved and the money returned no later than Sept. 15th. Mr. Edwin Wilson moved that this also be placed on the agenda of the special meeting, as the problem cannot be resolved until the future function of the Committee is decided.

Similarly postponed, was Miss Betty Carstens' request to speak to the Committee regarding financing a Mississippi student in California.

Mr. Carstens was authorized to try to set up at the Center for Study of Democratic Institutions, Santa Barbara, a Saturday conference for sometime later in the fall, on the Mississippi Project.

Mrs. Judy Newman reported the following: (1) a fund-raising party being planned for later in September, by younger sisters of Mississippi student-workers; (2) "Discussion Unlimited", a public forum on issues of the day, will have as speaker, James Forman, on Friday evening, Oct. 9th, and want to include two students as speakers. All students who worked in Mississippi and are here in the LA area, are invited. Betty Carstens and Jimmy Garrett were appointed, and as many parents as can go were asked to cooperate with this.

Mr. Hal Light of San Francisco reported on the Northern California Parents Group, and commended the Los Angeles Parents Committee for its action and achievement.

The Meeting adjourned at 11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Recording Secretary