



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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Dear Friend:

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which challenged the credentials of the regular Mississippi delegates to the Democratic convention in August, is preparing to challenge the seating of the Mississippi congressional delegation at the opening of the new session of Congress. This challenge will focus national attention on the voting laws of Mississippi and the discriminatory way in which they are administered. The attempts of Mrs Hamer, Mrs Gray, and Mrs Devine to take their seats in the House of Representatives will provide the opportunity for a dramatic exposure of the way in which people of that state are denied the ballot.

The MFDP will need national support for the challenge itself and for a "fairness resolution" which will prevent the seating of any representatives from Mississippi until the challenge has been decided. Enclosed is literature describing the challenge, the means through which it will be implemented, and suggestions that you and others in your community can undertake to assure the MFDP the support that it will require.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Northern Student Movement, and the Students for a Democratic Society feel that it is essential that the student community become aware of the existence of the challenge and the ways in which they can participate. We have therefore, gathered the names of individuals in cities throughout the country who we feel can be instrumental in mobilizing their respective communities and coordinating their activities around this issue. Please read the enclosed list of names. If your name has been included you should be prepared to call the other key people in your area and decide the best way to amass public pressure in support of the challenge. With them, you should initiate contact with the MFDP office in Washington (1353 U St NW, 332-7732) for further suggestions on what you can do. If your name is not one of those on the list, you should contact someone who is so that you can be advised of what steps are being undertaken in your community and so that activities can be coordinated as much as possible.

The nation must be mobilized to pressure not only congressmen who will ultimately decide the question but also, to let Mississippi know that people across the country are vitally concerned about the outcome of the challenge.

Carol Rogoff

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SNCC

Sam Leiken

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NSM

Helen Garvy

Helen Garvy
SDS

P.S. For those of you who will be in New York on Dec 21, an institute on the FDP, the congressional challenge and what we can do to help, will be held at Duane Hall, Metropolitan Duane Methodist Church, 13th St. and 7th Ave., New York at 7 pm.