

1353 U Street, NW
Washington, DC
December 5, 1964

Dear Friends of Mississippi:

Yesterday, December 4th, all five congressmen elected from the state of Mississippi were served with notices of our challenge to their right to occupy the seats from Mississippi in the U.S. Congress. That action begins the process of challenge as outlined in the timetable enclosed with this letter.

But this process makes no statements about who occupies the seats while the challenge is pending. The MFDP feels that since our challenge raises very valid questions about the rights of the Mississippi Congressmen to those seats, they should be prevented from sitting until those questions are answered. Usually, in contested elections the Congress accepts the person to whom the state has given credentials until the challenge is decided. To prevent this we are attempting to have a resolution introduced on opening day which would ask that the seats be kept vacant until the matter is resolved. This, if passed, would effectively unseat the delegation at least until July. We need local support for this (see list of organizational needs).

We are also including a statement on the positions and arguments we are basing our challenges on, and the reasons why the only really qualified candidates for those seats are the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party candidates.

Also enclosed is a listing of people in your area who have been contacted on the challenge and who have expressed interest in supporting it. We apologize for the lateness of this mailing but with other pressing problems to do with the filing and serving of the challenge it was impossible to have an earlier mailing.

We will be keeping you posted with all developments and look forward to getting your reports.

Yours for Freedom,

For Mississippi Freedom Democratic
Party