

Proposal to the Council of Federated Organizations to Challenge the Seating of the Mississippi Democratic Party at the National Democratic Convention.

The Mississippi Democratic party has 24 votes at the National Democratic Convention to be held August 30, 1964, in Atlantic City, N.J. Since this party does not represent any significant number of Negro Democrats in Mississippi, we think it should not be seated.

To challenge the seating of the Miss. delegation, we will have to carry through three levels of action:

1. We will have to send people to the meetings of the Mississippi Democratic party.
2. We will have to organize our own meetings to have duly elected persons to send to the National Convention.
3. We will have to make every contact we can with Democrats around the nation to prepare them for the challenge at the Convention.

Point number one: We should select as many delegates as possible to attend the precinct meetings. These meetings are being held during February, March and April. They usually are held on Tuesday mornings at the voting place of the precinct. They must be announced at least 10 days in advance; we should call the local newspapers to find out the exact date. We should follow this up by attending the county, Congressional district, and statewide meetings.

Point number two: We must organize our own precinct, county, Congressional district and state conventions.

a. Precinct Conventions--We suggest these be held Sunday afternoons during the months of March and April. Each precinct should elect from one to six votes to the county convention. (Each vote can represent four delegates, two half votes and two alternates.)

b. County Convention--We suggest that these be held Sunday afternoon during the months of May and June. Each county elects twice as many voters to the State Convention as it has representatives to the Miss. House of Representatives.

At the County Convention we select the County Democratic Executive Committee, which has 15 members. (Again each vote sent to the State convention can represent four delegates, two half votes and two alternates.)

c. Congressional District Caucus--We suggest that these be held Sunday afternoons during the month of July. Each district elects six regular and three alternate delegates (3 votes) to the National Democratic Convention; three members to the State Democratic Executive Committee; one candidate for Democratic Presidential elector.

d. State Convention--We suggest this be held the first Sunday in August. It ratifies the election of the delegates who were selected by the Congressional District Caucuses. It elects the rest of the delegates to the National Convention, 10 delegates and 7 alternates.

Point number three: COFO should write to Bill Higgs in Washington and ask him to lobby for this program in Washington and at the Convention.