LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
2027 MASS. AVE., WASHINGTON D.C.

STATEMENT OPPOSING CONFIRMATION OF GOVERNOR J.P. COLEMAN
TO THE UNITED STATES FIFTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEAL

We, the undersigned organizations, wish to express our strong opposition to the appointment of former Governor J.P. Coleman of Mississippi to the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. It is incomprehensible that this man who was one of the architects of most of Mississippi's white supremacist political and legal structure should be rewarded for his actions by this appointment. We urge the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the Senate as a whole, overwhelmingly to reject this appointment.

If Governor Coleman is confirmed as a judge of the Fifth Circuit he will be in a position to pass upon appeals from cases under the 1961 and 1965 Civil Rights Acts. This appointment may well be even worse, than that of Judge Cox. We point out that Governor Coleman, under the new Voting Rights bill, will be directly hearing appeals from federal examiners seeking to remedy the evil effects of voting discrimination laws and practices that Governor Coleman himself largely designed, drafted and implemented. We urge President Johnson to withdraw this nomination.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
American Newspaper Guild
American Veterans Committee
Americans for Democratic Action
Catholic Interracial Council
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
College Y.W.C.A. National Staff
Congress of Racial Equality
Council for Christian Social Action
United Church of Christ
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Episcopal Society for Cultural and Social Unity
Improved Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks of the World
Iota Phi Lambda, Inc.
National Alliance of Postal Employees
National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.
National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice
National Council of Churches—Comm. on Religion and Race
National Council of Negro Women
Northern Student Movement
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
SCLC
S.I.T.C., County, Municipal Employees
SHLC
Transport Workers Union of America
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
U.S. National Student Association
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Workers Defense League
A. Philip Randolph Foundation
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
National Consumers' League