

REMARKS by Guyot at FDP Staff Meeting, 1965
at GREENWOOD, MISS. Transcription of tape.

Politically, one position we can take now is we don't have to worry about what we're going to do when we're recognized by the National Democratic Committee 'cause that's not going to happen. Because if that happens, the control of the Democratic Party in every state would have to shift. Because if it happens here it means that the Democratic Party in New York is going to have to open up, the Democratic Party in any state you could pick. And I would dare anyone to name any state in this country in which either the Democratic or the Republican state-wide machine is run by any more than 100 people. That kind of state doesn't exist in this country. So our move is going to have to be to get people in the political arena who for all practical purposes would never get in in any other manner.

Now the MDC, the traditional Democratic Party..... On August the 21st Johnson called together Negro leaders from the south. There were more Negroes from Mississippi than from any other state. Katzenbach, Sargent Shriver, Hubert Humphrey - and the theme of the meeting was: take the poverty programs and organize a party. And that's going to be done. D.O.A. is going to spread like wildfire, C.A.P. is going to spread like wildfire, Headstart is going to be funded. And we're going to have to attempt now to deal in a new area with people and in a new manner. And whether or not that's done will depend on whether or not we use our frame of reference and transport that to the people that we're working with.

While negatively we assume that the people we're working with have the same problems we do, no different, no better, no worse - and that's unfair, it's untrue, it's impossible. And I think it's a question of whether or not the energy that we utilize is going to be spent for our



benefit or whether it's going to be spent to work in a way to provide what the people we're working with want. And I'm prepared to argue that people are not prepared to really ask for fundamental economic change. They're prepared to ask for food, clothing, a job, education; and that may be painful to a lot of us, but I'm prepared to argue that.

So politically the question is we have to line up as many people and prepare them for whatever happens. We have to have a machine that's open-ended that they can come into and that can then move in local elections, in Congressional district elections. And I think more basic and more fundamental is going to be the need to establish a daily, operating, viable political power in the name of a political party. There should be daily workshops on every facet of the life of the people we're trying to work with, from school education to adult classes to you name it. The only political similarity that I know to the Freedom Democratic Party is the African concept of the one party system. And there are certain negative factors involved but right now that's the only similarity I see in the country.