

## WAYS TO LINE UP CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE FDP CHALLENGE

The MFDP is basing its challenge on the provable legal ground that elections in Mississippi are not free and open to all citizens as federal laws and the constitution requires. We will prove that the "Congressmen" from Mississippi were selected by a process from which Negroes have been regularly and systematically excluded by illegal and unconstitutional registration and election procedures, and by intimidation, harrassment, economic reprisal, property damage, terrorization and by violence. These things we can prove, but the decision as to whether these Congressmen are allowed to sit in Washington are intensely political. Whether or not Congressmen support the challenge depends to an extent on the interest shown in this issue in their home districts.

We are asking people all over the country to take this issue to their Congressmen and to get their support. There are three things that we need Congressmen to do:

1. To support a resolution proposing that the "regular Mississippi Congressmen not be sworn in on January 4th, but that the seats be kept vacant until the Challenge has been resolved.
2. To support and vote for the unseating of the Mississippi delegation and the seating of the FDP candidates when this issue is reported back to the House by the Sub-committee on Elections. (see schedule of challenge)
3. To publicly support the FDP challenge.

### SAMPLE LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

THE CHALLENGE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FROM MISSISSIPPI RAISES BASIC QUESTION OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION. OVER FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AMERICANS DEPRIVED OF VOTING RIGHTS IN THAT STATE. VIOLENCE, LEGAL ABUSES AND MURDER WILL BE LOT OF NEGRO AMERICANS THERE UNTIL DEMOCRACY ESTABLISHED.

URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION AGAINST SWEARING IN OF MISS. DELEGATION UNTIL COMPLETE INVESTIGATION OF SITUATION BY CONGRESS.

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Dear Congressman X:

As you probably know, the MFDP, representing over 439,000 Americans who have no other representation in our political system, is challenging the seating of the Mississippi Congressional delegation in the U.S. Congress. Your constituents, the undersigned, share a deep concern about the illegal and oppressive system operating in that state.

Because you represent our views in Congress, and because of your record of support and concern for democracy and justice, we are urging you to support this challenge.

The MFDP have marshalled an overwhelming mass of evidence out-lining the systematic subversion of democratic rights in that state. We feel that this evidence casts real and substantive doubts about the qualification of any of the Mississippi delegation to representation in the Congress of the United States. We urge you to support and vote for a resolution asking that none of the Mississippi delegation be sworn in until Congress has had an opportunity to investigate the legality of the process by which they were elected.

(THIS CAN BE USED AS A PETITION OR LETTER)