

January 9, 1965

Dear Counsellor:

You may not know that there are only four Negro attorneys in all of Mississippi and only one white lawyer who will take any civil rights cases at all.

That is why we must seek out-of-state assistance to take the depositions authorized by Title 2 United States Code Sections 201-226 in proof of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's allegations that 95% of the state's qualified Negroes were denied the right to vote in the 1964 elections.

You have probably read in the newspapers of the MFDP challenge to the regular Mississippi representatives who claim their seats in the House by virtue of these elections.

Attorneys and court reporters are needed now, to go to Mississippi beginning January 20, 1965 to take the evidence by deposition. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) workers in the south know only too well how much evidence there is.

Will you help present the evidence to the House Committee on Elections?

If you can go to Mississippi for one week to help vindicate the constitutional rights of over four hundred thousand Negro citizens of Mississippi, please call one of our local offices listed below, or let us know by using the enclosed return envelope.

A briefing and training session will be conducted 2:30 p.m. Sunday, January 17, 1965 at 485 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco.

If you cannot go, will you pay the full or partial cost of one attorney's trip to Mississippi? The round-trip air fare to Jackson from San Francisco is \$275 tax included.

The need is always urgent; but in this challenge there is hope of victory. 148 representatives in the new Congress voted not to seat the regular Mississippians on the opening day of Congress, January 4, 1965.

For the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and our fellow citizens of a sister state, we seek your help.

For Freedom,

Bay Area Friends of SNCC

Regional office: 584 Page St., San Francisco; MA 6-4577

East Bay office: 5929 Grove St., Oakland; 655-9545

Marin office: 323 Melrose Ave., Mill Valley; 388-1770