

# THE YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF Mississippi

Vol. 1. No. 2.

P. O. Box 2251, Jackson, Mississippi

April 1965

## TURNED DOWN AGAIN! IN KANSAS CITY

Melvin Whitfield of Columbus, President of the YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI, led our delegation to Kansas City in the second attempt to get a charter. Just like in Atlantic City last August, we were denied. However, just as the Freedom Democratic Party does not give up when it doesn't immediately win, we must carry on the struggle. Thelma Eubanks of McComb, National Committeewoman; Dolmas Henderson of Columbus, Secretary; Roscoe Jones of Meridian, Vice-National Committeeman; Joyce Brown of McComb; and Hunter Moroy of Jackson went with Mr. Whitfield to present our case. On August 9, 1964, at the Baptist Seminary in Meridian, a state convention of over 300 people elected officers, ratified a Constitution, and passed resolutions. Official delegates were sent to Atlantic City, but were denied a charter primarily on the grounds that no certification was obtained from state senior party officials. However, the Mississippi Regular Democrats not only don't want to see a civil rights oriented, heavy Negro membership, group get established, but they also did not support LBJ's and Humphrey's campaign. That is supposed to waive the certification requirement, which we nevertheless have tried to meet. In our favor, the Policy Committee of the College Young Democrats unanimously supported us, and the National Committee passed a resolution praising the courage of the civil rights workers in Mississippi, still we didn't get a charter. The next development was that Mr. Spencer Oliver of Maryland, was made Chairman of the Membership Practices Committee, and decided to investigate the Mississippi situation. Without asking our President, Mr. Whitfield, where and who should come to a meeting, Mr. Oliver set one up at the Mississippi AFL-CIO office, including Mr. Claude Ransoy, state AFL-CIO head; Mr. Charles Evers, state NSSCP Field Secretary; Mr. Robert Oswald, Chairman of the Jackson County Regular Democratic Party and former state president of the Young Democrats (which was an all white group); Professor Truss and Mr. Ransom Jones and others from 'Ol Miss.; Mr. Jack Sexton and Mr. Spencer Oliver from the YDCA Membership Practices Committee; and our delegation with Mr. Whitfield. Mr. Oliver pledged that he

## CORE's JAMES FARMER SUPPORTS US

"I am acquainted with the YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI, which is an organized, integrated, anti-racist organization of young democrats in the state of Mississippi. I strongly believe that their seating as the official representatives of Mississippi would strengthen the possibilities of making the Democratic Party an even greater expression of the desires of men and women of good will to create a great society in our land. I therefore unequivocally urge that the YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI be seated as the official representatives from that state." - April 10, 1965

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## COMMENTS FROM MELVIN WHITFIELD

Why should Mississippi Negro or white youths join the YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI? "I believe that our main purpose is to be informative and to help people begin to think politically. What are we in this society, what is our function, how are we able to express ourselves in our government, and how are we able to demand a redress of grievances? It is mandatory that people be informed of the issues of today and be able to make wise decisions that will be beneficial. We believe that the dollar bill should not be able to tell people how to vote and who to vote for. Instead, it should be the issues and how they will involve an individual." What are your views concerning the regular Democratic Party? "We believe it is corrupt. It has crippled people into thinking one way, into having a one party state. We believe that not only should the Negroes be free, but the whites too, ... they are kept in a prison too, whether they realize it or not. We will be an independent organization from the state Democratic Party."

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## HINDS COUNTY ORGANIZES!

An organizational meeting of the YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF HINDS COUNTY is planned for Saturday, April 24, 1 pm at Tougaloo College, just outside of Jackson. People have expressed interest from Mississippi, Milsaps, and Tougaloo colleges.



## TURNED DOWN AGAIN! (Cont.)

would fight to deny Mr. Whitfield's group a charter, Mr. Sexton focused on obtaining information, and all the others except our delegation argued against our seeking a charter. Mr. Oswald in particular made the point that he thought that white people would not want to come into a group which was primarily Negro. Our position was that race was the one issue which had to be squarely and honestly faced up to if any progress was to come to Mississippi. If white people will not join the Young Democrats because Negroes have taken a leading role in organizing for national politics in Mississippi, that just proves the fact that most white people in Mississippi truly do not believe in national politics, but rather in racism. Mr. Evers argued against our seeking a charter, making the point that it was great that a group of southern whites wanted to work with us. Mr. Whitfield then suggested having another meeting to be held that following Wednesday at the Lynch St., Masonic Temple. The other people criticized this as "moving too fast". So Mr. Whitfield then invited the 'Ol Miss. students to send a representative along with us to the up-coming Kansas City meeting. They refused, saying that we should wait until the National Convention this fall. However, not only the 'Ol Miss. group (including Mr. Cleveland Donald), but Mr. Evers, Mr. Ramsey, and Mr. Oswald all appeared at Kansas City and explicitly asked the body to deny us our charter, even though they were not applying for one (they couldn't, they did not even pretend to have any state-wide group as required), and even though they did not maintain that our application was not in order. We do not understand how such tactics are showing a policy of "working together". Nevertheless, the YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI reaffirm our policy of inviting all people to join in with us.

And so, after almost deciding not to allow us a chance to speak before the Kansas City meeting, the YDCA National Committee voted first against a compromise proposal and then in favor of Mr. Oliver's committee's report to not give us a charter.

Now your delegation has returned home pledged to carry on the fight so that we will get our charter in New York, at the National YDCA Convention in October. This fight depends on your work in building strong local clubs. Write your state office for materials: YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI, P. O. Box 2251, Jackson, Mississippi.

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ORGANIZE COUNTY CHAPTERS AND NORTHERN SUPPORT for getting our charter at the YDCA NEW YORK CONVENTION this October.

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## FIP SUPPORTS OUR FIGHT

Lawrence Guyot, Chairman, April 10, 1965: "The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party has looked with great hope and pleasure upon the progress of YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI. We regard their emergence as another heartening indication of the beginnings of truly democratic and raceless capital democratic political activity in Mississippi. We urge that you welcome the delegation headed by Melvin Whitfield into your convention as brother Democrats and that you extend the charter to them. We urge this very strongly although we are not officially affiliated with the group. Because we consider them to embody the hope of truly encouraging political possibilities for the future moral and political strength of the Democratic Party in Mississippi."

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## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY APPOINTED

State Young Democratic President Melvin Whitfield has appointed R. Hunter Moroy of Jackson to be Executive Secretary of the organization. His job will be to assist in setting up a state office, maintaining correspondence, and being of service to the clubs and members. Send him report, membership lists, etc. P. O. Box 2251, Jackson, Mississippi

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## WE NEED MONEY!

If you believe in bringing democracy into Mississippi, send us some money. While the 'Ol Miss. group took a plane to Kansas City, we had to go by bus and a cramped car. We need funds for office space, filing cabinet, paper, postage, transportation, and the like. There is no chartered Young Democrats in Mississippi now. If you would like to see one, it takes money. Make out your checks to YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI, P. O. Box 2251, Jackson, Miss.

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clip and mail to Box 2251, Jackson, Miss.

## JOIN THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS NOW

OUR PURPOSE: To stimulate in young people an active interest in government affairs, to increase the efficiency of popular government, to foster and perpetuate the ideals and principles of the national Democratic Party, to recruit new members for the candidates of our choice, to help acquaint voters with the issues and the candidates, and to provide for our people through its administration the highest degree of justice, social welfare and happiness.

I AGREE AND HEREBY JOIN THE YOUNG DEMOCRATIC CLUBS OF MISSISSIPPI  
signed: \_\_\_\_\_