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MAY 16 1965

STATE-WIDE MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

held in Jackson, Miss., Sunday, May 16th, 1965 -----

The county chairmen, State Executive Committee meeting of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party was called to order by the chairman, Mr. Lawrence Guyot.

There was an introduction period, after which Freedom songs were led by Mrs. Susie Ruffin, and Mrs. Hazel Palmer.

The chairman asked for suggestions for the agenda for to-day's meeting. Mr. Hollis, Mrs. Anne Taylor and Mrs. Connor were selected to group the agenda and put topics in order.

The importance of local persons working in the Jackson FDP office was expressed by Thelma Hill.

Mr. Guyot talked on the importance of a committee for dealing with and establishing a structure for the M.F.D.P. from the precinct level up. He then asked for volunteers.

They were as follows:

Mr. John H. Gould; Mr. Applewhite; Mrs. C. Bell Rivers; Mr. Levi Brown; Mr. Robert Miles, Mrs. Aleyne Quinn; Mrs. Edna Mae Moore; Mrs. Rosetta Gladdis; Mrs. Sallie Oden; Mrs. E. Grandison.

Mr. Lonnie Carter of Jackson County spoke to the point of Congresswomen speaking more in the State. Mrs. Annie Devine said that unless local people took up their load and went to work and stopped depending on Congresswomen - the party would have already failed.

Mr. Guyot said that unless we get people into public positions (sheriffs, mayors etc.) we will be in the same shape we are now, and always have been. Nothing is important unless we stop separating leadership from the individual and stop making Congresswomen, Gods.

Thelma Hill explained different points about the summer project to be run by the FDP. Volunteers will be orientated at Waveland, Miss. for five days, beginning June 10th. The orientation session is a state-wide one and counties will orientate locally.

Mrs. Taylor of Forrest County told of the Fifth District organizing a committee of local people to go into counties in the District and work on organizing the party and getting people to register. These are people from the four counties which are operating in the District.

Mr. Guyot pointed out that we shouldn't just think about rotating workers in the State, but members of the FDP as well. FDP people should be prepared to go into counties where new voter registration tests have come about after action in the courts... and go in and work to get people registered.

He said that each person coming into the State for the FDP would be responsible to the FDP. Each county which asked for workers, he said, should send people to the orientation session in Waveland. The names should be sent to the State FDP office in Jackson, 507½ North Farish St., Jackson.

Mr. Guyot also spoke about the need for All counties to file suit against the State and demand that municipal elections be delayed until later this year. And also have the primary elections which have already taken place declared illegal, because Negroes were and are denied the right to vote.

Mrs. Ruffin spoke about support for the Challenge. She suggested a march on Jackson. It was the concensus of everybody present that we should march on Jackson in support for the Congressional Challenge and to support Free Elections this year. It was felt that this should take place before CONGRESS came to a decision on the seating of the Miss. Congressmen. Some people felt that just Mississippians should take part.

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Mr. Guyot pointed out the importance of having Freedom Days in each county in support of the Challenge.

Everybody who would work to get people who are not registered to the polls on June 8th (Municipal general elections date) were asked to stand for a count. The majority stood.

A Direct Action committee was suggested. Volunteers were asked for. They are as follows :

Mrs. Victoria Gray; Mr. Bill Ware; Mr. Crekwell; Mrs. Aleyme Quinn; Mr. Hallis Watkins; Mr. Andrew Green; Mr. L.E. Young; Mr. James Pittman; Mrs. Hazel Palmer; Mrs. Susie Ruffin; Mrs. Grandison; Mrs. Peggy Connor, and Mrs. Anne Taylor.

Finances and how funds are spent, were discussed by Mrs. Ruffin, Mr. Applewhite, Mr. Gould, Mrs. Palmer etc.

Mr. Guyot said a statement will be sent to county chairmen which will detail how all money is spent.

It was agreed by the majority of the people present that each county is to support its own office.

It was moved by Mr. Kirksey, seconded by Mrs. Gray, that the FDP would go on record as supporting whole-heartedly the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union. Mr. Andrew Hawkins from Shaw, where the Union started, gave a report on the Union. Mr. Hawkins is running for Mayor of Shaw in a Freedom Ballot to be held on June 8th.

Yours for Freedom ,

Peggy J. Connor.