

May 20, 1965

CAMPUS CONTACT NEWSLETTER

THE CHALLENGE AND THE WASHINGTON LOBBY

On May 17 the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party submitted more than 600 depositions to Congress. The depositions submitted support the MFDP charges of violence, murder, harassment, economic intimidation of Negroes attempting to take part in political activities in the state of Mississippi. Included is conclusive evidence of officially perpetrated violence and harassment, and the admission of state officials of their own participation in organized racism, and illustrations of the close ties between organizations such as the White Citizens Council and the state administration in depriving Negroes of the right to vote.

Now the depositions are before the Clerk of the House. There is some question as to how much of the testimony will be printed up and made public. The FDP is demanding that all the evidence be made available to all Congressmen. You should write your congressman, urging that he demand to see the entire body of evidence recently submitted by the MFDP.

We hope that you are all working to recruit for the Washington Lobby, with your help it can be made into an effective instrument in obtaining free elections for the people of Mississippi. Continue to publicize the Lobby through your local and school press, set up daily tables which have literature on the Challenge and the Lobby available, visit dorms, fraternities, and sororities during the dinner hour and speak to them on the Challenge.

For all students who have no place to stay in D.C. housing will be available at Georgetown University, 30th and O Street, Washington, D.C. Students should expect to pay at least \$21 for room and \$15 for food for one ten day period. Those students who are unable to meet these financial obligations should write Ruth Howard at the Atlanta SNCC office immediately. Also all students should come prepared with "lobby" clothes: suits and afternoon dresses.

It will be a few weeks after the lobby is over until the Challenge will be voted upon. We hope to send teams of two or more students back to every congressional district in the country to continue building support. You should urge students to make plans so that they can continue to work for the Challenge until the end of July.

VIOLENCE IN THE FIFTH DISTRICT

Six buildings were burned over the weekend of May 15-16 in Jasper, Jones and Covington Counties. All but one of them was connected in some way with the Movement. In Heidelberg (Jasper County) a Negro community center was burned to the ground. COFO had just begun working there.

Telegrams are being sent to John Doar, Philip Hart of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Emanuel Celler of the House Judiciary Committee and Lee White, Presidential Assistant expressing outrage at this outbreak of violence and asking federal action to prevent its recurrence, demanding "no bland formulas and excuses."