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May 27, 1965

Dear Friends of SNCC:

At the present time the Challenge brought by the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party to the seating of the five Mississippi Congressmen is in the hands of Congress. On May 17th the MFDP delivered over 600 depositions to the Clerk of the House of Representatives outlining the systematic terror and intimidation used by the state of Mississippi to keep Negroes from voting.

This is in keeping with Title 2, Section 201, et seq., which says that the next step is for the Clerk of the House to hold a meeting with the MFDP and with the challenged Congressmen to decide which and how much material will be printed by the Government Printing Office. This meeting is scheduled for June 2nd. When the material is printed, it will be sent to the Subcommittee on Elections of the House Administration Committee.

If Congress is inclined to follow the laws it has written for itself, the Subcommittee will make a report to the full House of Representatives by July 4th, at which time they will vote on whether or not to seat the illegally elected representatives from Mississippi.

The MFDP has fulfilled all the legal requirements under Title 2, Section 201, et seq., for a challenge to last November's Congressional election.

NOW IT'S UP TO US TO KEEP THIS ISSUE BEFORE THE
COUNTRY. RENEWED EFFORTS MUST BE MADE IN PUBLIC
MEETINGS, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, LETTER WRITING
CAMPAIGNS TO CONGRESSMEN AND FINANCIAL HELP TO
THE MFDP.

PRESSURE MUST BE BROUGHT ON YOUR CONGRESSMAN--ask him to see to it that the evidence compiled by the MFDP for the challenge is printed as soon as possible and sent to the Subcommittee on Elections. Make Sure that he hears from many of his constituents.

There are some members of the Committee on Administration that voted to unseat the Mississippi delegation on January 4th. If you live in one of their districts, please see to it that he hears from you--asking him to make sure that the Subcommittee on Elections handles the challenge with all due speed:

George M. Rhodes, Pennsylvania
Frank Thompson, New Jersey
John H. Dent, Pennsylvania
Lucien N. Nedzi, Michigan
John Braddamus, Indiana
Augustus Hawkins, California
Jonathan Bingham, New York

SPEAKERS FROM MISSISSIPPI ARE WAITING TO COME AND SPEAK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHALLENGE BEFORE ANY PUBLIC MEETING YOU CAN ARRANGE. Contact Mrs. Hazel Palmer at the MFDP Office, 507½ North Farris Street, Jackson, Mississippi.

FUNDS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED to cover expenses incurred during the past six months. Contributions can either be sent to the Jackson office or the Washington office of the MFDP, 926 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC.

As you can see from the enclosed statements, the civil rights movement is presenting a united front in support of this challenge. The outcome of the challenge may depend on the final push during the next few weeks. PLEASE HELP!

For Freedom,

Margaret Lauren
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