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MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

THE STORY BEHIND OUR DEMONSTRATIONS

For a long time Mississippians have lived under unfair laws and power-hungry men. Negroes and other poor people have been kept from saying how they want things run. A few whites have all the power and make all the decisions.

BUT NOW Mississippi Negroes are beginning to say "No, we will not stand still and be held down." And so they've been marching to the state capitol building where the law-makers meet and Governor Paul B. Johnson's office is. They've marched at the Governor's Mansion, the Robert E. Lee "Club," the Old Capitol Museum, a Baptist church, and the Federal Building (Post Office).

They want people all over the country to know they want FREEDOM and JUSTICE and a chance to live as full citizens in a really democratic nation.

THE M.F.D.P.

These people have organized themselves into a political party - the MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY. The M.F.D.P. has told Congress it believes the 5 Mississippi Congressmen in Washington were illegally elected because Negroes have been kept from registering and voting.

Many people told how they had been threatened and hurt and warned about voting. What these people said should be printed up soon and all 435 United States Representatives should get copies.

The M.F.D.P. is asking these Representatives to call Mississippi elections illegal so that new elections can be held and everybody can vote to choose law-makers.

This attempt to have Congress say Mississippi's Representatives are ILLEGAL and call NEW ELECTIONS is the Congressional Challenge.

Also, the M.F.D.P. says that if U.S. Congressmen were not legally elected because Negroes couldn't vote, then state law-makers and other state and local officials must not be legal either.

- VOTING RIGHTS

Congress is now trying to pass a "voting rights law," which would make it possible for Negroes to vote. This law says that FEDERAL REGISTRARS would come to Mississippi so registering would be fair.

The people with POWER in Mississippi don't want federal registrars to come here, so Mississippi law-makers are meeting now to try to keep them out. They are passing laws that seem to make it easier to register, but people would still have to be tested by prejudiced and unfair men.

Governor Johnson also wants the law-makers to say that MARCHES and PROTESTS near the Capitol and other public buildings are illegal.

"The M.F.D.P. is going to march anyway," says Mrs. Annie Devine of Canton.

"Those men have no right to make the laws of Mississippi and we have no business honoring and respecting their laws."

UNCONSTITUTIONAL ARRESTS

The people who marched and picketed to ask for new elections and fair voting laws were arrested. At least 850 went to jail, most of them from Mississippi.

The CONSTITUTION says that people have the right to picket and march and say what they think is right.

The powerful people in Mississippi have locked Negroes up for trying to do this.

The M.F.D.P. realizes that in order to protest other wrongs, it must first make Mississippi officials allow FREEDOM of SPEECH and ASSEMBLY.

So people are marching for many important reasons and our lawyers are going to court many times to get unfair laws changed.

LAWYERS and the PEOPLE of MISSISSIPPI must work together on this.

FREE AT LAST

The brave people who marched have suffered.

But they suffered before they marched - for years and years.

Now they have a chance to change things so people will not suffer any more.

There must be MORE MARCHES and MORE SPEECHES and MORE PEOPLE ready to SPEAK OUT how they feel.

We have failed before because we stopped working and talking and stopped marching - before the job was done.

CAN WE WIN THIS TIME ?

IT IS UP TO YOU !

MEET WITH US !!

at the MASONIC TEMPLE - 1072 Lynch Street

WORKSHOPS on Direct Action starting Tuesday, 9 A.M., all day throughout the week

COME to the MASS MEETING

TUESDAY evening at 7:30 - Hear MRS. FANNIE LOU HAMER
MFDP Congresswoman and
Organizer of the Sunflower County
Voter Registration Drive

Mrs. Hamer, of Ruleville, Mississippi, was a plantation worker for 17 years before being fired for trying to register to vote. For the last 2 years she has been an active leader and speaker for the M.F.D.P. She has traveled throughout the country and spoken to thousands of people about the Mississippi Negro's fight for Freedom.

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY
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