

July 1, 1965

Dear Friends of SNCC

Enclosed are statements which would have been delivered at the hearings on the Coleman appointment before a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee last June 29th. At the last minute, according to officials, Coleman became ill and had to be taken to the hospital. The hearings were postponed until after the July 4th holiday and/or Coleman's recovery.

Because of the postponement of these hearings, we are very hopeful that there will be sufficient time to mobilize pressure on enough Senators to stop this appointment. Coleman must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

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Yesterday in Washington representatives of the MFDP filed their brief (Brief of Contestants Urging the Vacating of Contested Seats and the Holding of New Elections in the Matter of the Contested Election of Jamie L. Whitten, 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, et al) with the Clerk of the House. The Clerk refused to accept the brief but it was left on his desk anyway. Today briefs will be delivered to every Congressman.

Still, none of the depositions have been printed. The Clerk has not budged from his position of refusing to print the depositions (see Mrs. Gray's testimony on Coleman).

PLEASE CONTINUE PRESSURING YOUR CONGRESSMAN. THESE ARE CRITICAL DAYS AND STEADY AND INCREASING PRESSURE MUST BE PUT ON YOUR CONGRESSMAN ASKING HIM TO DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO SEE TO IT THAT THE CHALLENGE IS CARRIED THROUGH.

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Please remember that it's impossible to put out mailings, to do political support and to maintain communications with you unless we have enough money to supply the necessities. Boxes of printed materials have been sent to each of you which you can use for fund raising. Presently, SNCC is facing a dire financial crisis--please continue to work on fund-raising so that we can carry on the struggle.

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Yesterday, in Federal District Court, Judge Cox ruled that the city of Jackson was prohibited from 1) enforcing the ordinance against parades and handbills and 2) interfering with the right of demonstrators to peacefully protest and peacefully walk on the sidewalk, with or without signs, as not to interfere with the pedestrians on the sidewalk. 20 people were arrested about 20 minutes before the injunction was signed for violation of these ordinances.

Last night a mass meeting was held and further demonstrations are planned. At least 300 people are expected to join in a march to the Capitol today.

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Many volunteers are working in the field along with SNCC staff and need financial support from northern groups. If you can adopt a freedom worker, please get in touch with me at once. This is a wonderful way for people in the north to participate in the work that's going on throughout the Black Belt.

For Freedom,

*Margaret*

Margaret Lauren