

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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July 7, 1965

Dear Friend:

Enclosed is a complete report on recent activity around the MFDP Challenge and the legislative and administrative bottleneck into which the Clerk of the House, and seemingly the leadership, are trying to channel the Challenge.

To date the Clerk of the House, exercising power well beyond his authority, has refused to print the 600 depositions submitted by the MFDP in support of its case to unseat the five Mississippi Congressmen, and has further refused to "officially accept" service of our legal brief until such time as he calls for it. In neither case does the Clerk have such discretionary power.

Besides being served on the Clerk and through him to the House Administration Committee, the briefs are being distributed to all Northern Congressmen. By July 15th we will have about 2,000 additional copies which will be available for purchase from this office. The price will be \$2.50 a copy, which does not totally cover printing and shipping costs; thus contributions above that amount would be accepted.

We have the legal case, now we need the political support. The only way we will be able to overcome the roadblocks being put up to prevent the question of the Challenge being brought before the full House of Representatives for a final vote will be to maintain constant pressure at every step on the Congress.

In case you do not get through the full report, the following is an outline of ways supporters of the Challenge can help:

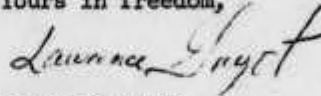
1. **FUNDS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED:** In order to continue bringing the issue to the public, speakers are needed throughout the country. Right now we cannot cover the cost of sending one speaker out. Ten Mississippians were arrested in the Clerk's office; bail and court fees and transportation from Mississippi are needed. 1,000 Mississippians want to come to Washington for the final vigil until the House decides the issue. 5,000 copies of our legal brief need to be printed.
2. Write to the Clerk of the House, Ralph R. Roberts, Speaker McCormack, and your own Congressmen urging that the Clerk keep his commitment by immediately printing all depositions.
3. Write Congressman Omar Burleson (D-Tex.) Chairman of the House Administration Committee, other members of the Committee, and your own Congressmen urging that they prevent the racist dominated Subcommittee on Elections from bottling up the Challenge.
4. Make the Challenge a public issue in your home community. Develop city or state wide delegations to visit Congressmen in Washington during July.
5. Prepare to join Mississippians in Washington in their vigil for a final vote sometime in mid or late August (further details will follow).

July 7, 1965 - 2

Every major civil rights group in the country is now supporting the Challenge, as are the major churches. If these forces are mobilized in significant action in each community, the vote on unseating the Mississippi Congressmen will become a major civil rights position which every Northern Congressman will have as a part of the record he must run on at the next election.

With best wishes,

Yours in freedom,



Lawrence Guyot
Chairman, MFDP