

July 8, 1965

MEMO to Friends of SNCC:

Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on the Coleman appointment have been rescheduled for Monday, July 12. There is a remote possibility that this appointment can be disapproved by the Judiciary Committee if enough grass-roots pressure is put on the so-called liberal Senators (Tydings, Md; Kennedy, Mass; Dodd, Conn; Long, Mo; Bayh, Ind; Scott, Pa; Javits, NY; Hart, Mich). However, so far, not one Senator on the Committee has come out publicly against the appointment. We doubt if any of them will actually vote against the appointment unless their constituency gets aroused.

If you live in a state where your Senator sits on the Judiciary Committee, it is urgent that you wire him your disapproval of this appointment. Try to get influential and politically powerful leaders of your community to make phone calls to your Senator urging him to vote against the appointment. Ask everyone to wire or write his Senator urging him to do everything in his power to stop this appointment.

On the back of this page is a statement signed by 28 organizations participating in the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights. They oppose the Coleman appointment. Please get in touch with local chapters of these groups and have them make public statements opposing the Coleman appointment and urge them to have individual members write their Senator opposing the appointment.

Senator Eastland has held up hearings on every appointment of a Negro judge for nine months to a year. The same has been true of most Jewish judges. Some of the judgeships Eastland has delayed are:

Thurgood Marshall, 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals.....	11 months, 16 days
Irving Ben Cooper, US Dist. Ct., NY.....	1 yr, 8 days
Spotswood Robinson, IVI, US Dist. Ct., Va.....	8 months
David Rabinowitz, US Dist. Ct., Wis.....	nominated Sept 6, '63 never confirmed

Yet Eastland obviously is pushing the Coleman appointment through as fast as he can.

Since the enclosed memo, Report on the Challenge, which describes in detail just where the challenge is now, was printed, a story appeared in the NY Times and the Washington Evening Star saying that the Clerk has ordered all the evidence collected for the Challenge to be printed, the type having already been set. However, the Clerk says he will go through the galley proofs and decide what shall be printed. This doesn't mean that pressure on Congressmen should be let up. On the contrary, steady and continuous pressure should be continued, asking each Congressman to see to it that the Challenge is carried through.

At any juncture the Clerk, the House Committee on Administration, the Speaker, the President could throw a monkey wrench into the whole procedure and the Challenge could come to a grinding standstill. Let your Congressman know you want the Mississippians unseated and see to it that other people in your community let him know, too.

Additional suggestions:

1. Form delegations of prominent persons to go to talk with your Congressman about supporting the Challenge.
2. Form delegations of people from your neighborhood to visit your Congressman.
3. Contact every local organization in your area and get each group to adopt a resolution supporting the Challenge. Encourage the group to publicize the resolution and send it to your Congressman.
4. Get every political figure in your community to pledge his support to the Challenge. This means every political figure who won or lost last November or in the spring primaries.
5. Circulate petitions in support of the Challenge and send them to your Congressman.

For Freedom,
Margaret
Margaret Lauren