

September 15, 1965

The Challenge is expected to be voted on this coming Friday and here is how it will happen:

The Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges has reported to the full House Committee on Administration and recommended that the Challenge be dismissed. The House Committee on Administration meets tomorrow, September 16, and will recommend that the Challenge be dismissed. Congressman Augustus Hawkins, Democrat of California, acting as a member of the House Administration Committee, will introduce a minority report upholding the challenge--either Thursday or Friday.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE MINORITY REPORT BE ACCEPTED BY CONGRESS.

Here is what you can do to help: Send telegrams to sympathetic members of the Administration Committee--Friedel, Md; Hayes, Ohio; Thompson, NJ; Nedzi, Mich; Gray, Ill; Bingham, NY.

ASK THESE SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN TO VOTE WITH HAWKINS AND JOIN THE MINORITY REPORT.

Also, telegraph your own congressman and ask him to vote against dismissal of the Challenge. Ask him to let the challenge be heard, not to ignore the basic issues of American democracy, or the lack of it, which the challenge raises for all of us.

WE HAVE FOUND THAT TELEGRAMS ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD OF PRESSURING CONGRESSMEN. PLEASE URGE EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO WIRE THEIR CONGRESSMAN AGAINST DISMISSAL OF THE CHALLENGE.

Here is a run-down of activities in Washington since the first of the week:

Monday, Sept 13--Approximately 500 people from Mississippi are in town to participate in lobbying activities for the challenge.

This morning the Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges of the House Administration Committee held closed hearings on the challenge. Telegrams were sent by FDP attorneys and Chairman Lawrence Guyot protesting the fact that the hearings were not being held so that the public could hear the evidence--an unprecedented move by the subcommittee. 300 Mississippians went down to the committee room but were not allowed to enter. They stood in the halls of the House Office Building. The contestees and their attorneys testified at the hearings.

The Subcommittee recessed around noon because a quorum was not present, and they did not reconvene because of debate on the House floor over some administration bills which were to have been reported out of the Rules Committee.

In the afternoon the Mississippians lobbied for the Challenge with individual Congressmen.

Tuesday, September 14--The Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges resumed closed hearings on the Challenge at 8:30 AM.

In the morning the Mississippians reported on their lobbying activities yesterday. They told about who they had visited and what the Congressmen had said to them and what kind of reception they were or were not given. Then workshops were held and lobbying activities were resumed.

In the afternoon, an FDP Convention was held. John Lewis, James Farmer, Arthur Kinoy, Lawrence Guyot and People from Mississippi spoke.

Late in the afternoon the Subcommittee made its final report to the full House Administration Committee, recommending that the challenge be dismissed.

(Tuesday, continued)

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights met and civil rights, labor, and religious organizations passed a resolution urging defeat of the House Administration Committee's attempt to dismiss the challenge and deploring the haste with which the challenge was being handled.

Wednesday, September 15--Mississippians lobbied on Capitol Hill and visited 85 different government agencies and talked about how federal programs are carried out in Mississippi.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE MINORITY REPORT BE ACCEPTED BY CONGRESS. Here is what you can do to help: Send telegrams to sympathetic members of the Administration Committee--Trotter, Holt; Hayes, Ohio; Thompson, Neb; Noel, Mich; Gray, Ill; Blugham, W. V.

ASK THESE SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN TO VOTE WITH HAWKINS AND JOHN THE MINORITY REPORT. Also, telegraph your own congressmen and ask him to vote against dismissal of the Challenge. Ask him to let the challenge be heard, not to ignore the basic fairness of American democracy, or the lack of it, which the challenge raises for all of us.

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Monday, Sept 15--Approximately 500 people from Mississippi are in town to participate in lobbying activities for the challenge.

This morning the Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges of the House Administration Committee held closed hearings on the challenge. Testimony was given by FBI attorneys and District Attorney Goyet regarding the fact that the hearings were not being held as that the public could hear the evidence--an unprecedented move by the subcommittee. The Mississippians went down to the committee room but were not allowed to enter. They stood in the halls of the House Office Building. The congressmen and their attorneys testified at the hearings.

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In the afternoon the Mississippians lobbied for the Challenge with individual congressmen.

Tuesday, September 16--The Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges resumed closed hearings on the Challenge at 8:30 AM.

In the morning the Mississippians reported on their lobbying activities yesterday. They pointed out that the House Administration Committee had said to them that kind of testimony was not allowed. Their witnesses were held and lobbying activities were resumed.

In the afternoon, an FBI conference was held. The laws, James Farmer, Arthur Goyet, Lawrence Goyet and people from Mississippi spoke.

Late in the afternoon the Subcommittee on Elections and Privileges of the House Administration Committee recommended that the challenge be dismissed.