

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ansey, this as you can see was
written early. Many changes have been made
and as soon as I get an updated copy I will
Send it to you. It predates several developments
in our State politics.

Clifton R. Whitley
Candidate for
U.S. Senator
January 9, 1966

Freedom and democracy are fundamental to the political ideology of every Mississippian and every American. Yet they are unrealities in some of the basic categories of life in Mississippi and the Nation. The degree to which they are unrealities is shocking. They are unreal in politics, economics, education, and in the social sphere. To understand the implication here one must recognize that we have the machinery in which freedom and democracy may be realized. But the machinery has not functioned for a shockingly high percentage of the people of this State. It has not functioned at all for the Negro. At this very moment our State Legislature is again carrying on its phony business of instant law making. This time it is concerned with making it more difficult, if not impossible, for a Negro candidate to get his name on the ballot, and to keep Negroes out of Mississippi politics in general. All responsible Mississippians are aware of the action of the legislature over the past four years and the number of instant laws, and the character of those laws, that it produced. The concern of our lawmakers over the past four years has been the concern of racists, trying at any cost to "keep the Negro in his place." It is comical what strange mixtures of data and intention they mix in order to get these instant laws. The logic employed is that of the segregationist mind. When they cry out hypocritically for law and order they mean for the Negro to be respectful of especially those laws, while the same laws have no possibility of applying to them with equal force. They want a strange kind of order. A kind that by any other definition means chaos. What they ultimately want is for the Negroes and whites that are impartial in their reasoning to accept the status quo without criticism or protest.

The civil rights revolution has demonstrated, in Mississippi and the rest of the South, that freedom and democracy do not exist for the Negro, or for a shockingly high percentage of white persons. It is time, therefore, for all Mississippians to protest the lawless character of our State, and to do something to bring about a condition of law and order in our State that is free of racial characteristics. For we have all been outraged by the undemocratic and "police" character of Mississippi over the past years. As human beings, the Caucasians as well as the Negroes of Mississippi, deserve an atmosphere in which we can all hold up our heads and walk upon this great land in freedom and dignity, and in an atmosphere of law and order in the highest ethical and moral sense possible. My candidacy is ultimately dedicated to this.

The economic, political, social and educational life of the people of Mississippi has been dictatorially controlled by a hand full of illegitimately powerful men for too long. This hand full of men has been successful in politically manipulating both Caucasians and Negroes for more than one hundred years. The people that are now willing and able to say "down with this kind of tyranny" must recognize that certain changes in the political structure of our State must take place in order to guarantee freedom and democracy to all of our people.

If you could get someone to cut a stencil and run off a few copies to be circulated in your area I will certainly appreciate it. Will see you here on the first Sunday in May. Cliff

We live in the Twentieth Century. The ethical, moral, religious, and political character of which makes a politic uncouth and criminal that denies one the blessings of democracy and prosperity because he is too poor to pay a \$2.00 Poll Tax Fee, or because he cannot sign his name because of a "sun stroke" that he had a year ago, or because he was denied an education two or more decades ago, or because he was born black, or brown, or gold, or some other color.

Race has dominated the politics of Mississippi, in a negative way, for too long. Racism must no longer dominate the politics of our State. State governors, other state officials and our United States Senators and Congressmen have run and have been elected to office, on segregation dominated platforms, on one hand, and on sheer personality on another for too long. Mississippians have not seriously voted for issues for over one hundred years. Economically and politically, we are still paying the price of that error. That error is basically responsible for the political and economic inadequacies of our State, for the shame that every responsible and intelligent Mississippian should feel by having been so grossly misled, and for the engagement of many who now know they were simply and clearly denied the opportunity to do so.

My candidacy is a protest to the kind of nonsense spoken of above. My candidacy is a protest to the violation of the intelligence, the rights, and the freedoms of the people of Mississippi that is evidenced by that nonsense. But my candidacy is not only a protest. Because of the endorsement of my platform by certain individual persons, groups, and organizations in the State, I have no other will but to believe in our ultimate victory. Therefore, I am running to get elected. Following is an outline of that platform.

1. ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES: As a political and legal document, the Constitution of the United States of America, and the first nineteen amendments to it, clearly and sufficiently provides for the protection of the rights and the freedoms of all Americans--the white ones, the black ones, the red ones, the brown ones, and even the hooded yellow ones that function under the cover of night.

The administration of those rights and freedoms is further provided for by Title 10 Section 333, and Title 18 Sections 241, 242, 3052 as amended in 1951, and Section 3053 of the United States Code. When the civil rights of Negroes are questioned, however, the cry is heard that we do not have sufficient legislation to administer them. The business of instant law goes on, and violations of the civil rights of Negroes go unprosecuted to the fullest extent of the law to this very day. The judges have been merciful to the killers of civil rights workers in the few cases that have been heard. But in cases where Negroes have been tried and found guilty of Capital Crimes it was "God have mercy on your soul." This means that if you are white and hate Negroes the judge is capable of mercy, and if you are black only God is capable of mercy--this means "white man's justice."

No American must delude himself into thinking that the absence of social justice for the Negro is due to insufficient civil rights legislation. The absence of justice is due to unfaithfulness to the American Constitution, and partiality in administration. Nothing can possibly hide the racial quality of justice in this State and in our Nation.

2. THE ELECTORAL PROCESS: A large part of the failure of democracy in this State, in particular, and in our Nation, in general is due to failures in the electoral process. In spite of everything the established Democratic Party in this State is a closed one. This is also true of the Republican Party. They are not only closed to Negroes, but the way in which they operate, and the purpose for which they operate make them closed to many whites. The Democratic Party controls the politics of the State. In as much as this is true, the primaries are closed, and the proposed action of the State Legislature is most likely to render them even more closed. It is likely going to raise the number of signatures that one must have in order to get on the ballot to an almost impossible one. The legislature already has absolute control over the primaries. Our legislators can do this, possibly, because they will hardly be affected by it. For they did not get into office through the action of "above the board" conducted primaries and general elections. With the legislature having absolute control of the primaries, and with the established democrats controlling and dominating the life of the State, I am really surprised that they have not succeeded in forcing the Republican Party to register as a subversive organization. For Mississippi is still the "closed society", and the state controlled and dominated electoral process is correspondingly closed. Only through free and open elections can we make the politics of our State decent and truly democratic.

But, some say the key is now being fitted into the lock on the door of the "closed Society". They give as evidence the now existent Mississippi Democratic Conference and the surging activity of the Young Democrats. This is now being offset by other moves to maintain exclusivism such as changing the election laws, redistricting, legislative reapportionment, and new techniques of manipulating free men. So while the squeaks of one door that may be opening are heard, or simply read justing to the winds of revolution, exclusivism is being carted out through another door to another stronghold hopefully by them forever.

Excessive governmental control of the electoral process is fatal to democracy regardless to how responsible a government may be for the propagation of itself. This is not only true for Mississippi, it is true of our national system. In fact, democracy is contradicted by the present character and degree of governmental control of the electoral process.

The electoral process must become less dominated by the legislature. Elections must be free and open, free of the tyranny that is now expressed by the character of our state politics. Government must be a government of free people, by free people, and for free people.

3. DEMOCRACY IN THE ECONOMIC ORDER: If freedom and democracy are to live in our State it must exist in the economic as well as in the political order. The present character of capitalist laborer ethics in our State is hardly above the level of a master slave ethic. Organized labor has served an important function in this regard in many other parts of the country, and we must permit organized labor to do the same in this State of Mississippi. This can happen only when the people of Mississippi purge the political atmosphere and make it conducive to organized labor.

Finally, legislation must be passed that will give more protection to workers. This must finally be spelled out in contracts issued to workers by firms. So far, contracts in this State protects mostly the employing agency. They tend in most all

cases to make an employee the property of the employing agency. The move must now be made to provide more protection for workers, to increase their sense of dignity, to make them more knowledgeable of the goals and the objectives of the firms for which they work through proper education, to make employers more knowledgeable of the conditions in which his employees live at home--to bridge the gap between employer and employee, and ultimately to democratize the economic order.

4. FOREIGN POLICY: Mississippi must assume a more positive role in the shaping of foreign policy. Few people, if any, will deny that our foreign policy is dominated by reactionism and patronism, and it has dreadfully failed to spread peace and goodwill abroad. We are reacting militarily to the spread of communism when militarism as a technique of combatting communism has long since been demonstrated to be inadequate. If former Premier of Russia, Nikita Khruschev, could boast "we don't need guns", certainly we can demonstrate our peace capability unarmed. But we continue to wage unnecessary and devastating wars. Among the prime examples of such cases are Korea, Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, our involvement in the Congo and many others.

It is strange indeed that the same logic in our foreign policy that applied in the above mentioned cases does not apply to Southern Rhodesia. But perhaps it is enough to admit that our foreign policy is a strange one that needs basic revisions.

We must rid our foreign policy of a kind of Goldwaterism that is evident in it in spite of the defeat of Goldwater at the polls. We must also remove the tinges of a provered social Darwinism where it is the ethical responsibility of the strong to subdue the weak.

We must believe that our resources for peace at least equals our resources for war, and participate in the projection of a foreign policy that makes full use of our resources for peace and goodwill rather than our military.

5. WELFARE AID: Contrary to Goldwaterism, the state is still responsible for providing aid for the poor and the needy. Moreover, our State is responsible for many of the welfare cases that we have because of its bent on maintaining a race dominated economy. This is evidenced by inequality in job opportunities, and in the salary scale among other things. Yet many poor and needy people are unable to secure welfare aid because either they are Negroes, or they are, or have been involved in civil rights issues, or both. Many other Negroes have been taken off the welfare list because they asserted themselves in order to secure the full promise of democracy. We must put forth a firm effort to help all of those that obviously need welfare aid.

6. AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS: Mississippi is still an agricultural state and every effort must be made that will make it possible for the small farmer and businessman to make a decent living. This is now possible with the Economic Opportunity Act being in force, but only if we secure and maintain adequate administration of the parts of the program that apply.

It is known that most counties in Mississippi are having problems with ASCS elections. In most cases the white citizens responsible for the program have simply gone out and hand picked certain "good Negroes" whose name they could use in order to make it appear that the operation is integrated and otherwise properly constituted. This has been contested in many counties and should be contested in all other counties where this condition has developed.

