

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

*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.*

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*