

MISSISSIPPI DELEGATION POSITION PAPER

(Presented to the Convention of the National Conference for New Politics, held in Chicago, Illinois, August 29 to September 4, 1967)

We, members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and of the Mississippi Delegation, came to the NCNP Convention for a purpose. That purpose was to see that the NCNP acts so as to speak to the needs of the Black people of Mississippi as we see them.

Black people in Mississippi are faced with virtual genocide and are therefore fighting for their survival. The Primary thrust of our organizing has been to develop economic and political power, and self defense in Black communities, and to get away from reliance on the federal government, or other outside agencies. We feel the following programs are not necessarily those which will result in the liberation of the Black people, but are those needed for our immediate survival.

Let it be clear that new politics is no new thing in Mississippi. New politics started with the first attempts by Black people to register to vote and organize politically within the FDP. In doing this they put their lives on the line.

ELECTIONS

This November over 60 Black candidates are running for election to local offices as Black independents. We are organizing for their victory. To aid in this we need:

1. Pressure put on the Federal Government to ensure that Black poll officials are appointed to all 82 counties in Mississippi, and that they are selected by Black political organizations in the state.
2. Financial support. Money is required to finance the campaign of over 60 candidates. For example \$3,000 is needed for Holmes and Carroll Counties plus 2 cars. \$4,000 has already been raised locally by the Black community. Twelve Black candidates are running in Holmes, and 4 in Carroll. (Money should be sent to P.O. Box 447, Sunflower, Miss.)

EDUCATION

It is our belief that the system of education as effects Black people in Mississippi is totally corrupt and serves as a mechanism of control for white and racist society. It must be dismantled and reconstructed from top to bottom.

Faced with the immediate needs of the Black community, we call for immediate and massive efforts to correct the inadequacies of black schools. The Black schools must be controlled by the Black community, and funds must be provided for a program of Black cultural history to foster a sense of identity and pride.

WELFARE

We believe that the economic basis of society in Mississippi as presently based on the exploitation of Black by white must be changed,

to end the genocide starvation of the poor of Mississippi; to remove the necessity of colonialist, degrading welfare systems; and to provide for economic self determination and land ownership by the black community in place of the present plantation economy.

In order to relieve the present conditions of medically documented starvation, we demand more free food stamps to all poor Black Mississippians supplemented by free medical care.

MILITARY DRAFT

We demand the abolition of the draft for Black men in Mississippi. Instead of drafting young men, they should be offered job training to the end of rebuilding the Black communities in Mississippi.

LABOR

1. Segregation must be ended in the Mississippi AFL-CIO and all other unions.
2. The KKK control of striking Masonite workers in Laurel, Miss., should be investigated and publicized.

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

There are certain areas where outside groups such as the NCNP can be of help (some of those areas have already been outlined) either in providing direct financial support, or pressure for certain kinds of demands on the authorities.

Many Black communities are now able to support organizing efforts within their own communities. There is not, however, the money for a State-structure providing information and coordinating efforts of local Black radical groups. There is a definite need for:

1. Money to support 35 full-time organizers for the five Congressional districts.

Money to support operations and pay for 2 full time staff in the FDP state office. This staff would service information and research needs of all radical Black organizations in Mississippi.

In conclusion, we would like to remind you the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party is NEW POLITICS. If you are serious about new politics you have no other choice but to lend full support to the demands of the Mississippi Delegation.

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Please send your comments on this position paper (its facts, ideas, and demands) and on the statement by Mrs Gray, to the Freedom Information Service, Box 120, Tougaloo, Miss. 39174.

Also, we invite your opinions on what are the "radical Black organizations in Mississippi" and why you think they are.