

MISSISSIPPI DEMOCRATIC

FREEDOM / News PARTY / Letter

Number 1

Sunflower, Mississippi

October 1, 1967

Mississippians United To Elect Negro Candidates

Mississippians United was organized in June of 1967, at the Holmes County Community Center in Mileston, Mississippi. Mississippians United was organized to form a coalition of the various organizations in the state, to raise money for Black independent candidates.

The steering committee is made up of five people:

Joseph Harris - Chairman of Mississippians United

Owen Brooks - Acting Director of the Delta Ministry

Lawrence Guyot - Chairman of the MFDP

Charles McLaurin - MFDP State Executive Committee member

Hollis Watkins - MFDP organizer

The five man steering committee sent out a brochure, "To Get That Power". Since that time, the steering committee has expanded with additional members. These members are: Mrs. Victoria Gray - Hattiesburg. Reverend James McRee - Canton. Also, one member from each of the 8 priority counties. The 8 priority counties are: Hinds, Holmes, Carroll, Bolivar, Sunflower, Yazoo, Issaquena and Madison.

Each of the priority counties will get \$625.00 for their campaigns.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR THE FDP?

YOU CAN WRITE TO P.O. BOX 447 for membership cards.

FDP is asking for a donation of at least \$1.00. Each person should fight for Negro election managers in your county.

Each person should fight for Negro poll watchers and workers.

REGISTER TO VOTE

Independents Still Running

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party is fighting the illegal Mississippi laws which are being used to try to take independent Negro candidates off the November ballot in Hinds, Sunflower, and some other counties. These laws are illegal because the Voting Rights Act of 1965 not only provides for federal voting registrars but also has provisions to prevent any Southern state like Mississippi from passing new laws designed to limit the power of the Negro vote. This federal law says that no states can pass new laws about voting without the approval of the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. In 1966 the Mississippi legislature passed a whole batch of laws to make things tough for Black candidates. These new state laws are especially hard on independent candidates (showing that Mississippi is more afraid of Negro independent candidates and of the MFDP than the state is afraid of Negroes working in the regular Mississippi Democratic Party). In the law case, Whitley vs. Johnson, the MFDP went to court in October of 1966 and won the right to have Rev. Clifton Whitley listed on the ballot against Sen. Eastland. Now the state is trying to say that any independent candidate who voted in the August Democratic Party primaries cannot be listed on the November ballot. This law does not apply to Republicans (who of course are all white); it is a law to work against the MFDP and independent Black candidates. The state knows its law is not legal; the purpose of the present trouble is to confuse and discourage Negro voters and independent candidates. Mr. Lawrence

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LCDC

Remains in the State

The Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee (LCDC) is not closing its Mississippi office. There have been a lot of rumors in the State recently that LCDC was leaving Mississippi after the election in November. This is not true. LCDC will have some changes in its staff of lawyers towards the end of this year and it will continue to operate its office in Mississippi as well as in Louisiana.

FDP ANNOUNCES

1. The trial against the 18 Neshoba Countians who "killed" the three Civil Rights workers in 1964 will be held in Jackson on October 9, 1967. Lawrence Guyot, Chairman of the FDP said "It would be unfair to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner who died for the MFDP if those of us who keep FDP going and for those of us who have worked for the FDP to not attend this trial".

2. The MFDP will hold its monthly State Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, October 14, 1967, at the Mt. Beulah Conference Center at one O'Clock in Edwards, Mississippi.

3. The MFDP has moved its State Office from Jackson, Miss. to Sunflower, Miss. The new address is MFDP, P.O. Box 447, Sunflower, Miss. Telephone: Sunflower 17.

4. The State Executive Committee of the MFDP does not abridge or deny freedom of speech or inquiry on any matter, to any county organizations and/or members, and/or supporters of its policy or activities. To do so would contradict one of the major reasons for the existence of the FDP.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions to be answered and mailed to the MFDP office. P.O. Box 447, Sunflower, Mississippi.

1. Do you believe that the United States should be involved in the war in Vietnam? Yes No
2. Do you believe that women should serve on a jury? Yes No
3. Do you believe CDGM should be refunded? Yes No
4. Do you believe that there is starvation in Mississippi? Yes No
5. Do you believe the Mississippi Welfare Department should give 100% aid to those on welfare, or should the welfare department continue to give 27% as it does now? Yes No
6. Are you a member of any political party? If so which one? Democratic party
Republican party
MFDP
7. Do you attend your local P.T.A. meetings? Yes No
8. Do you believe that Mississippi has the worst schools in the country? Yes No
9. Do you believe that young ladies with children who are unmarried should be permitted to attend a public school? Yes No
10. Do you believe that any organization with mostly all black member is bad? Yes No
11. Would you support Robert Kennedy or Lyndon Johnson for President in 1968? K J
12. Do you believe that there will be riots in Mississippi? Yes No
13. Do you support all black independent candidates in the November general election? Yes No
If not, why?
14. Will you serve on a campaign committee in another county if you do not have any black candidates running in your county? Yes No
15. Do you know that White Mississippians are encouraged to participate with FDP activities? Yes No

Platform and Principles of the

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM

The Freedom Democratic Party, believing that racial equality is only the first step in solving the basic problems of poverty, disease and illiteracy confronting American society, welcomes the participation of all Mississippi citizens in a joint effort to realize the goals of economic growth and individual self-fulfillment in a spirit of humane concern for the welfare of every person.

With all humility we ask the guidance of Almighty God in these difficult times. May His power and spirit fill us all as we approach these problems that beset us all.

We pledge to support the candidates and principles adopted by the National Democratic Party at its convention in Atlantic City in August 1964.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS: BE IT RESOLVED

1. That we support the 1960 National Democratic Party platform specifically insofar as the following principles apply to the State of Mississippi.

a. Full employment as a fundamental objective of national policy and the necessity for federal aid to the depressed areas of Mississippi and the rest of the nation.

b. Strong state and national action to eliminate artificial barriers to employment based on race, sex, religion, or national origin.

c. The right to a job requires the full restoration of collective bargaining and the repeal of anti-labor legislation designed to prevent the effective organization of unions.

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d. The right of every farmer, tenant, sharecropper and migrant worker to a decent living through the raising of farm incomes and wages, national and state legislation affecting wages and living conditions, food stamp programs to feed needy children, the aged and the unemployed, and the expansion of school lunch and milk programs.

e. Medical care benefits to be provided as part of the Social Security insurance system.

2. That we wholeheartedly endorse the program embodied in the Civil Rights Law of 1964 and that we demand both state and national officials to implement the principles of this law.

3. That we insist that all officials of the state and national governments take steps to insure the impartial registration of all qualified voters in the State of Mississippi. We urge vigorous enforcement of the civil rights laws to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens in all areas of the country. We urge the abolition of the literacy test as a voting requirement. We further urge use of the 14th Amendment clause which allows for a reduction in Congressional representation when qualified voters are not registered.

4. That we vigorously support the Supreme Court school desegregation decision of 1954 and demand that immediate measures should be undertaken by the state and national governments to guarantee that the decision be enforced in the State of Mississippi.

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That we urge careful consideration of the use of federal funds in Mississippi to insure that such grants will not be used for the perpetuation of segregation.

Specifically:

a. That we oppose the use of federal funds for the construction or maintenance of segregated community facilities in Mississippi.

b. That we advocate the establishment of a state Fair Employment Practices Committee to assist in reviewing cases of employment discrimination.

2. That we advocate careful supervision of the use of federal funds in order that the withholding of federal funds will no longer be used as a means to threaten and harass Mississippi citizens who try to exercise their constitutional rights.

3. That we look for the appointment of federal referees to supervise all Mississippi electoral procedures--from the first attempt to register to vote to the final counting of ballots--until all citizens of the state can rest assured of a meaningful voice in a democratic society.

4. That we advocate a substantial reduction in the state sales tax and a proportionate increase in the income tax.

5. That we condemn the use of state tax monies to support the Sovereignty Commission and other organizations whose aim is to perpetuate the segregated society.

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Guyot, state chairman of MFDP, and Attny. Al Bronstein of the LCDC in Jackson are certain that all our candidates will be on the November 7 ballot. The candidates are still campaigning. This trick by Mississippi did not work in 1966; it will not work in 1967. Black independent candidates, supported by the MFDP, will be on the ballot on November 7, 1967 --AND WILL WIN!

Support all committees working towards the election of Black candidates.

5. That we support the Supreme Court reapportionment decision of 1964 and call for a just system of representation in every legislative body in the United States consistent with the principle that each individual has an equal vote.

6. That we believe that an extensive job retraining program should be vigorously pursued by both the state and national governments in order that middle-aged people who are victims of an era of economic transition may continue to be self-sufficient members of the community.

7. That we applaud the start which has been made toward the amelioration of poverty under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson in such measures as area redevelopment, a broadened minimum wage, manpower training, food stamp legislation, and the omnibus anti-poverty measure. We call for the intensification of these programs during the next four years under continued liberal Democratic leadership and for the integration of these efforts with a creative public works program.

8. That we strongly endorse the efforts of Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson to achieve international development and cooperation through such measures as support of the United Nations, a vigorous foreign aid program, attempts to bring about the control of nuclear weapons, and the creation of the Peace Corps.

9. That we applaud the advance of freedom throughout the world and advocate American cooperation with the United Nations in a peaceful effort to eradicate tyranny in those areas of the world--such as South Africa, Angola, Southern Rhodesia, Hungary and East Germany--where it still prevails.

10. That we oppose attempts by any nation or ideologies--communistic or otherwise--on any other nation.

11. That we vigorously condemn extremist and hate groups such as the Klu Klux Klan, the White Citizen's Council, the Association for the Preservation of the White Race, the John Birch Society, and the Black Muslims.