

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM /News DEMOCRATIC PARTY Letter

MFDP BACKS EVER'S FOR U.S. CONGRESS

The MFDP supports the candidacy of Charles Evers for the 3rd Cong. District seat in Miss.

The MFDP calls for a united front of all state and community groups including civic, religious, social, welfare rights and political organizations, to get out the vote for Mr. Evers.

We believe that voting for Evers is a blow against racism. Your all out support Feb. 27 is all important.

There are and have been differences in policy and technique between the MFDP and the NAACP in the past but we are supporting the candidate not the state nor the national NAACP. There are differences particularly about the immediate end to the Vietnam war and other national and international issues. But this is an election for a candidate and a candidate only and we feel Mr. Evers among all the announced candidates, is the outstanding choice.

We believe that Mr. Evers can be supported by FDP members in good conscience since he has fought on many local issues with us AND he has supported many programs the MFDP has fought for.

Mr. Lawrence Guyot, state chairman of the MFDP was asked by Mr. Evers to serve as his campaign chairman. Mr. Guyot's decision was backed by members of the state FDP executive committee and county chairmen.

Other FDP members asked to serve on Mr. Evers campaign committee were Rev. Ed King (co-ordinator for speaking engagements), Mr. R.L. Bolden, research and idea man, and Mr. Alfred Rhodes, jr. Publicity Director.

This special election to fill John Bell Williams term in Congress must be repeated again in November when a full two year term opens up.

MFDP NEWS NEEDS NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTY.

Mr. Joe Harris, FDP Office Manager requests all FDP members to send in news from their counties as often as possible.

SUNFLOWER, MISS. | vol. 2 no. 5. JAN. 30, 1968

PETITIONS OUT AGAINST EASTLAND!

The MFDP, along with other groups fighting for change in the South, is being investigated by two racist Senators--Eastland and McClellan.

The purpose of this investigation harassment is to hurt the MFDP and stop it from attacking the things which Senators Eastland and McClellan stand for: Poverty, Injustice and the War in Vietnam.

We are enclosing petitions against the Eastland investigation in this mailing. We hope you get them filled out and returned to the MFDP office at Box 447, Sunflower, Miss.

If you want more petitions write to Southern Conference Educational Fund, 210 W. Broadway, Louisville, Ky.

Last Jan. 11 the MFDP, SNCC, CORE and SCEF (a white Southern civil rights and peace organization) met in Louisville to discuss the Eastland and McClellan investigations.

As a result of the meetings it was decided to hold public forums to acquaint people in the South about this newest form of political oppression.

IF PEOPLE CAN BE FRIGHTENED BY CHARGES HURLED AT THEM BY THESE RACIST WITCHHUNTERS THIS WILL HAVE A CHILLING EFFECT ON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS.

The course of politics in the South (and throughout this country) must be changed and Senators like Eastland and McClellan and their wild dogs will not stop us. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY SIGNING THE ANTI-EASTLAND PETITION.

-REMEMBER THESE DATES
MARCH, 1968: School board elections.
MARCH 1-31: FREEDOM OF CHOICE FORMS

THE M F D P LOOKS AT JOHN BELL AND HIS NEW
STATE LEGISLATURE

THE ROBERT CLARK CHALLENGE

The handling of the illegal challenge of Rep. Clark from Holmes county by the business community and the State of Miss. forced the governor to keep the challenge from reaching the floor of the legislature. This is not an indication on John Bell Williams basic philosophy. This merely shows John Bell now can appear liberal by doing very little.

BLACK LOBBYIST FOR CLARK MUST BE CONTINUED AND BROADENED.

There was a great deal of lobbying done by Miss. People and groups including the MFDP and the NAACP to help seat Robert Clark. Without your help he might not have made it. I congratulate every Mississippian who sent petitions to his state representative demanding the seating of Clark. I urge that this kind of lobbying be continued and broadened so that Negro will have more and more to say to their representatives on every important issue before the state legislature.

THE WHITE STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

We are trying to desegregate the state election commission. The case is before the Fifth circuit court of Appeals in New Orleans.

The Miss. Attorney General argued that the court should wait because the election commission was going to be made elective rather than appointing offices and would be increased from three to five officers. John Bell can do away with ridiculous old laws by offering small changes and try to look good.

EDUCATION: NEGRO TEACHERS AND THE MOVEMNET MUSTUNITE.

John Bell must address himself to the problem of education which includes not only spending more but completely desegregating the faculties and student bodies. This means the complete destruction of the

Dual school system. Title I money has got to be brought in to the state. Tenure for our teachers is a must in Miss, because it would be unfortunate if the teachers got big salary boosts and still remain political slaves of the present -- system.

In the past the movement has attacked Negro principals and teachers but now the teachers and principals will have to unite with the movement to attack the real enemies: THE GOVERNOR AND 99% OF THE MISS. STATE LEGISLATURE.

WELFARE

More money for the ADC program is one of the most important issues in this state. we must fight for a Welfare department run as much as possible by Welfare recipients themselves. For to long the Welfare Department has told people not register and get involved in the political system. But we can not take politics out of the Welfare because WELFARE IS POLITICS.

What we can do and must do is to define the kind of politics which means growth rather than oppression.

WOMEN ON JURIES

The MFDP is now leading the fight for women to serve on the juries. John Bell and his company better decide to pass just laws for women or he will be forced to do so by MFDP in federal court.

THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION KEEPS
BLACK LEADERS FROM BLACK CAMPUSES.

The all white Board of Higher Education makes policy for both black and white colleges. This board decides who can speak on these campuses. The board must not only be desegregated but its power must be confined.

Extra money for colleges will be wasted unless students are permitted to become more involved in the policies of the college. This means curriculum, hiring of faculty, freedom of political association and tenure for teachers (with tenure, teachers have security to speak out without getting fired).

CDGM BOARD VOTES TO KEEP CENTERS OPEN EVEN WITHOUT OEO MONEY.

The state executive committee of the MFDP proudly congratulates CDGM for taking ethical position they took at their last Board meeting.

CDGM voted to run the present centers on a voluntary basis and not to sell out the children by cutting them out of the program.

CDGM also voted to negotiate with OEO and seek support from groups inside and outside of the state.

CDGM decided to wage an all out fight for adequate funds to continue to run quality programs for the children. It is time that the fight for funding of CDGM be brought into Miss. because it is Mississippian first foremost who benefit.

We call on all Mississippians, regardless of organization, to close ranks and fight for the immediate funding of CDGM.

MFDP URGES: DESEGREGATE SCHOOLS AND FORCE OUR BLACK SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE,
DESEGREGATION MUST BE PUSHED THROUGH OUT THE STATE BY BLACK GROUPS. STRATEGY TO OVERCROWD WHITE SCHOOLS SO BLACK SCHOOLS BECOME INTEGRATED. ONLY THEN WILL WHITE SCHOOL BOARDS TREAT BLACK SCHOOLS FAIRLY.

The following is from a Hinds county FDP member, Mr. Louis Turner: "There is a need for more Negroes to go to white schools because they can get a better education. Recently the federal government made a study of Negroes who attended

desegregated schools since 1954. It was found the average Negro in the white schools did better than the average Negro in the Negro schools. This is because of many things-better facilities and equipment at the white school and also the fact that black students tried harder to learn when they competed against whites on a man to man basis.

"Until we overcrowd the white schools the white power structure won't do enough to make our black schools what they should be. We must cause the whites to register in some of our black schools or else stay home."

Mr. Lawrence Guyot urged local political, social and anti-poverty groups to join in with black teachers for equalization of funds for all schools in every county of our state. He added: "We must be concerned with the latest court orders at the same time we must realize that school integration affects only a tiny percentage of our children.

"We must also concern ourselves with the majority of black people who have not entered desegregated schools.

WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW FEDERAL COURT ORDERS ON SCHOOL DESEGREGATION. THEY ARE FAR FROM WHAT THEY SHOULD BE BUT AS LEAST THEY DEMAND THE FOLLOWING IN MOST SCHOOLS DISTRICTS:

(1) Pupils ^{2nd} of kindergarten through public junior colleges attend the school of their choice.
(2) Students have between March first and March 30st-30 days to decide. If you know of a teacher or principal who tell your child they must return the freedom of choice forms within a week (as happen in Edward, and many other communities) report this to the NAACP legal Defence Fund 538½ North Farish Street Jackson by March 31st.

(3) Students in ninth grade or higher, OR 15 years of age, can sign own freedom of choice forms unless his parent objects. But his parents need not to sign it unless he had an objection

This is new in many districts.

(4) In a district which provides transportation eligible black children must be given transportation by the school board if they live over one mile away.

This arrangement should be made before school opens.

(5) Negro schools must be -- equalized in every way or close down. (for example overcrowding must be cut down so that the pupil teachers ratio shall be even between the black and white schools.)

(This information was excerpted from a federal court order which resulted from a suit brought by Miss Diane Cowan a black girl in Bolivar county. This case was filed by Attorney Paul and Iris Brest, Marian Wright and Rebuben Adderson of the NAACP legal Fund. This court is similar to those in most counties throughout Miss.)

(6) In some school districts, when a student or his parent does not make a choice, the school board must assign the student to the nearest school in his neighborhood, Watch to see that your school board obeys this order.

(7) All schools must desegregate their faculties. If your school fails to do this students and parents should complain.

TOUGALO STUDENTS BEATEN BY JACKSON POLICE.

Five black college students announced at Tougaloo college last week that they were beaten up by Jackson city police. The five said they went to a crystal hamburger joint and one white boy made a telephone call. Shortly afterwards police arrived

and asked the witness if there

were any trouble. She said "no" but the police arrested the five students anyway and took them to separate rooms at police headquarters. There they were each beaten and prevented from making a phone call for two and a half hour $2\frac{1}{2}$ to three (3) hours.

Bond were set at (\$200) each for disturbing the peace using obusive language, and other charges. The student decided not to bother fighting the case and forfeited the bonds.

A sixth victim of Jackson police "justice" Robert Wells, 22, who sister attend Tougaloo was rough up last Saturday night following a traffic accident. He defended himself against the racist Jackson policemen. He already has been found guilty of the traffic charges. Wells just returned on leave from Vietnam last December Third(3rd) after he contact Malaria.

Typist for this issue of the FDP News is Miss Jessie Magee of Jackson.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR OUT OF STATE MFDP READERS AND NEW READERS OUTSIDE OF MISS: \$4.00 per year.

We hope to produce one or more issues of the newsletter each month.

Write to Mr. Joe Harris, Box 447, Sunflower, Miss.