

WHEREAS, on November 2, 1971, there will be general elections in the State of Mississippi; whereas this is only the second time in modern history that large numbers of Blacks have had the right to vote in such elections in Mississippi; whereas nearly 70% of the population of Bolivar County is black, but still greatly unrepresented in that only two county level elected officials exist in the present political power structure; whereas the conditions and circumstances of our lives are governed and determined by politics and through the acts of elected public officials; and whereas the Black citizens of Bolivar County called for and held on September 11, 1971 in Mound Bayou a Black Convention for the purpose of involvement of Black citizens in considering the political and economic structures of our society; and whereas nearly 300 citizens representative of Blacks of Bolivar County were present and involved in drafting and deciding the needs of Black citizens of the county. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the resolutions adopted by the Bolivar County Black Convention and supported by the slate of Black candidates herewith attached, will constitute the commitment of the Black citizens of Bolivar County. Be it further resolved that any and all publicly elected officials will use his office to achieve the following objectives:

IN THE AREA OF HOUSING:

- 1) The County Board of Supervisor will enact and enforce a set of minimum county housing codes.
- 2) The state, county and local elected officials will make provisions for an adequate supply of standard housing units in such a manner that substandard units will be eliminated only after standard units replace substandard units.
- 3) All elected officials will make known to tenants the rights they have as tenants.
- 4) In view of the Housing crisis in Bolivar County where better than 60% of the residents live in units unfit for human habitation in the event of eviction all elected officials will establish 60 days as the minimum period allowed for the finding of adequate housing.

- 5) The County Board of Supervisor will enact and enforce minimum building codes.
- 6) All elected and appointed officials will use the full extent of their offices to assure an equitable and non-discriminatory distribution of public and private financial resources to qualified builders.

IN THE AREA OF LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- 1) As the highest governing body in the county, the Board of Supervisors will place proper emphasis on the performance of certain areas of responsibility, such as, health and welfare, attracting and establishing industry, education, recreation, appointments and approvals, etc., as opposed to the disproportionate attention paid to road supervision.
- 2) In face of the blatant discrimination practiced in the leasing of 16-section land, the Board of Supervisors will immediately correct the great injustices which have been committed in leasing of 16-section land. To wit, no blacks in the county have leased 16-section land.

IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, MEDICAID AND MEDICARE:

- 1) Persons eligible to receive food stamps will be made eligible for medicaid benefits.
- 2) Public employees in welfare and the Food Stamp Program will immediately stop their dehumanizing treatment of recipients.
- 3) All elected public officials will support a \$6,500 a year guaranteed income for a family of four.

FARMERS AND FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS:

- 1) All elected county officials will work towards modernizing an industrializing land related occupations.
- 2) All elected officials will work towards a fair and equitable distribution of public and private monies for the starting of farm related industry.



- 3) Elected state officials will support legislation which regulates markets to insure a fair share of profits to the farmer.
- 4) All elected officials will carry out policies which guarantee a fair share of The Department of Agriculture's jobs and resources for Black people.
- 5) All elected officials will enact and carry out policies and programs which will attract youth to rewarding agricultural pursuits.

IN BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND EMPLOYMENT:

- 1) All elected officials will carry out policies which guarantee that raises and promotions will be based upon merit and not capricious and/or discriminatory factors.
- 2) All elected officials will work towards a fair and equitable distribution of public and private monies for the starting of non-farm related industry.
- 3) All elected officials will engage themselves to see that SBA will immediately cease and desist from its current discriminatory practices.
- 4) All elected state and county officials will enact and support legislation which attracts and encourages industry.
- 5) All legislators will support the enactment and implementation of legislation which insures that our schools prepare our children for a productive role in our society. In this regard a compulsory school attendance law will be enacted.

FOOD STAMPS AND FOOD COMMODITIES:

- 1) All elected officials will insist with USDA that food items presently proposed for cutting will be continued (i.e. dried eggs, peanut butter, orange juice, and instant potatoes).
- 2) County elected and appointed officials will embark upon an effective food stamp education program which guarantees maximum utilization and benefits to poor people from the food stamp program.

VOTING AND POLL WATCHING:

- 1) Elected officials will readily make available to communities voting machines and voter education assistance.
- 2) Candidates, elected officials and concerned citizens will encourage voting by insisting upon the presence of Black clerks and managers in every precinct.

CANDIDATES, PROBLEMS, AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- 1) As they assume office all elected officials will set the following priorities:
  - A. Large scale community development;
  - B. broad based welfare reform;
  - C. upgrading and making more relevant health and educational facilities within the community; and
  - D. equal opportunity employment commitments from all employers within the community so that business and industry will properly reflect among employees the population of the community.
- 2) Black candidates will be concerned about the mechanics of political election and solidifying efforts in election strategies by:
  - a. promoting togetherness among all black people within the community
  - b. designing a campaign appeal that will include the broadest range of the black community.
  - c. pooling efforts to obtain available resources for election campaign purposes.