People's Conference Calls For Action

The new Arkansas law makes it easier to register to vote.

The new statute provides for registration without paying a poll tax.

The only requirements for registration are: at least 21 years old and living in Arkansas for one year, in the county for six months and in the precinct or ward for one month.

The County Clerk, at his office in the County Court House, will be the new registrar. Formerly, the County Sheriff was in charge of registration.

Once registered, a person does not have to register again, as long as he votes regularly.

At this date there are no registered voters in the state of Arkansas which means there can be no school board, county, state, or national elections.

The new registration date has not been announced but will probably be in July. In time to have registered voters for elections in September.

The new election law was passed in a statewide election last November.

People's Conference at Ferndiff near Little Rock.

OVER 50 PEOPLE attended the Arkansas People's Conference at Ferndiff near Little Rock.

MORE HARASSMENT IN WEST HELENA

A 57 year old mother of eight related increased white harassment here since helping a white civil rights worker.

The Negro lady, Mrs. Lottie Lamar reported that her family has suffered continual harassment since she began assisting SNCC worker Howard Himelbaum last February.

In April, a rent collector for a local real estate company refused to accept Mrs. Lamar's rent, forcing them to move.

When Himelbaum confronted the realtor he was told, "we put some people out last year and there was no trouble. You see, we know our niggers a little better than you do."

Neighbors rallied to Mrs. Lamar's support by threatening to move also. Within

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"The 'leaders' couldn't stop us because they weren't leading," Rev. Ben Grinage of Pine Bluff exclaimed.

"We were tired of waiting for the Negro 'leaders'," he went on, "so we organized a group of students and went down to eat at Woolworth's. The 'leaders' tried to stop us. They said we were hurting relations between the races in Pine Bluff. But the students kept on demonstrating."

The students were expelled from school and thrown out of the dormitories but local families took them in. Finally the whites had to come to us because the students were leading. They had to ask us to stop," he concluded, "The leaders are the people who do things."

The first SNCC People's Conference, at a camp near Little Rock, Arkansas, ended with over 50 people from many counties in the Arkansas Delta talking about "people and freedom."

One of their conclusions: "The leaders are the people who do things."

At the meeting people from throughout the eastern part of the state exchanged ideas and techniques. A housewife from West Helena talked to a farmer from Star City; a Negro student at the formerly all-white university talked to a factory worker from Forrest City. They all talked about people and programs, about "How to get people involved and then, what to do."

PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT Arkansas talked, ate and lived together during the two day conference.

PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS

People at one workshop talked about what a rights worker called "bottom up organizing." A heavy-set Negro man stated- "You have to get people involved and you have to communicate with them." Another Negro shot back, "But how do you get people involved?"

"Essentially the people here are saying," a rights worker explained, "we must stop telling people what their program is."

THE PEOPLE ORGANIZE

"Even before SNCC came to Star City we had organized the Lincoln County Civic League," said Mr. William Green.

In November, 1964, Green ran for the State House of Representatives in Lincoln County in the heart of the Arkansas Delta. He lost the election because of fraud at the ballot box. Two years before Green was elected Justice of the Peace. He is the first Negro in the state to hold that position. After the election, the state told him he was no longer a Justice of the Peace. The position is still in contention.
People's Conference Calls For Action

Overs 50 People attended the Arkansas People's Conference at Ferncliff near Little Rock.

MORE HARASSMENT IN WEST HELENA

WEST HELENA, Ark. - A 57 year old mother of eight related increased white harassment here since her family has suffered continual harassment since she began assisting SNCC worker Howard Himmelbaum last February.

In April, a rent collector for a local real estate company refused to accept Mrs. Lamar's rent, forcing them to move. When Himmelbaum confronted the realtor he was told, "He put some people out last year and there was no trouble. You see, we know our niggers a little better than you do."

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Freedom Party
Says Must Go

JACKSON, MISS.- The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) has asked the U.S. House of Repre-
sentatives not to seat the five member, all-white, Congressional delegation from this state. Three
Negro women will replace them if the challenge succeeds.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Mrs. Annie Dene, and Mrs. Vic-
toria Gray will be seated in place of the three alleged il-
legally elected Congressmen. New, free elections would be
held for the remaining two Congression-
al seats.

The MFDP charged that the five Congressmen were sent to
the House in elec-
tions where Negroes have been excluded
from participating in the political life of
Mississippi.

In January, a num-
ber of Congressmen
asked that the Repre-
sentatives from Miss-
issippi not be sworn-
in until the charges
of the MFDP could be
investigated. This
move was unsuccessful
but drew the support
of 149 Congressmen
from all over the
U.S.

The MFDP has con-
tinued its challenge
taking testimony
throughout the state
of Mississippi.

Presently, the
House is deciding how
much of this testi-
mony to publish. The
law requires that the
House decide by July
4 whether or not to
seat those five mem-
bers.

The MFDP is receiv-
ing support from the
SNCC, CORE, and Mar-
tin Luther King.

People discussed voter registration, com-
community centers, school desegregation and
federal programs.

SNCC is organizing a force of 1,000 stu-
dents to go to Wash-
ington in June and
July to attempt to
persuade the Congress
to deny seats to the
Mississippi Congress-
men.

The MFDP is a po-
litical organization
formed last year in
Mississippi because
Negroes were denied
Party participation.

WEST HALENA

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seven days, five houses
were owned by the same
company in that row
were vacant. Himmel-
baum stated, "The
rent collector came
back and pleaded with
the people to stay."

A SNCC worker ex-
plained, "Organizing
to vote is as much a
part of voting as
casting the ballot.
And when someone is
harassed due to asso-
ciation with organi-
zers, their basic vot-
ing rights are also
challenged."