

JUN 1968
4250 3
MIF

SNCC (hc)

FREEDOM CARAVAN

to

WASHINGTON D.C.

JUNE 10 - 26

JUNE 20 - JULY 7

DATES INCLUDE TRAVEL TIME

UNSEAT THE

MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMEN ~

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
816 STATE STREET
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

- * SEMINARS LOBBY WITH CONGRESSMEN
- * WORKSHOPS WITH SOUTHERN CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS
- * CHARTER BUSES AND CAR POOLS

SPONSORED BY: STUDENT NONVIOLENT
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

(OVER FOR MORE INFORMATION)

68-1510 Pam

THE CHALLENGE

The challenge of the five Mississippi Congressmen was initiated under Title 2, Sections 201-226 of the U.S. Code, which says that any citizen may challenge the seating of a Congressman. The basis of the challenge is the obvious exclusion of Negroes from the voting process.

On the opening day of Congress, Congressman William Fitz Ryan of NY introduced a "Fairness Resolution," asking that the challenged Congressmen not be seated, and that the contestants be given floor privileges. This resolution led to a revealing and crucial vote, in which 150 Congressmen voted in favor of the MFDP challenge.

Under Title 2 the contestants were given 40 days to collect depositions in support of their case. Over 100 lawyers went to Mississippi and collected thousands of statements describing the repressive actions of the Mississippi government.

The challenge is now supported by CORE, SNCC, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, National Council of Churches, Americans for Democratic Action, California Democratic Clubs, Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, American Civil Liberties Union, and the International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union.

If you go to Washington with the Freedom Caravan you will:

*Lobby with Congressmen in a concerted effort to unseat the Mississippi regular Democrats.

*Attend seminars and workshops led by SNCC Field Secretaries and MFDP leaders on national politics.

*Meet and discuss the challenge with Northern Congressmen.

THE MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSMEN

Prentiss Walker, Republican without previous experience in the House, celebrated his victory by addressing the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race, a Dixie racist-terrorist organization.

The other four, Thomas Abernathy, Jamie Whitten, John Bell Williams, and William Colmer, are all Democrats. Their voting record has consistently been anti-labor, anti-welfare, anti-Negro, and anti-poor.

The four have maintained themselves in Congress since 1946 through an electoral system that uses violence, terror and outright fraud to keep Negroes from the voting rolls. (A typical county, Benton, in late 1964 had 83% of the whites registered, less than 1/2% of the Negroes.) Mississippi is a one-party state. "A two party system in our state..." said Gov. Paul Johnson in 1963, "would give the balance of power to our minority group. This would be the end of our way of life."

THE MFDP CANDIDATES

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, 46, from Ruleville in Sunflower Co., site of Sen. Eastland's plantation. In 1963 she was severely beaten in jail. She received 33,009 votes in the Freedom Election in the 2nd District.

Mrs. Victoria Gray, 38, school teacher and business woman. She was one of the first to house SNCC field workers in Hattiesburg, and now directs the COFO voter registration program there.

Mrs. Annie Devine lives in Canton, and has served on the staff of CORE. "It is time," she says, "that the forces of emancipation become as well organized as the forces of oppression."

COST: \$102 This is the cost of round-trip bus fare; you will also need about \$25 for food and extras. There will also be limited car pools. Housing will be provided in Washington. (YOU MUST BE OVER 18)

For applications write or phone: BAY AREA SNCC, 584 Page St, SF, 626-4577 or EAST BAY SNCC, 5929 Grove St, Oakland, 655-9545, or pick up applications at the SNCC tables on your campus.