

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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COFO MAPS VOTE FIGHT:
HENRY "RUNS" FOR GOVERNOR IN
FREEDOM BALLOT CAMPAIGN

JACKSON, MISS., Oct. 7 - A state-wide meeting here of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) mapped plans yesterday to run a Negro gubernatorial candidate in a Freedom Vote prior to the Nov. election.

Dr. Aaron Henry, 42-year-old President of COFO, agreed to campaign throughout the state in the next three weeks in an effort to bring out a record Negro vote for his candidacy in the unofficial balloting.

COFO's Freedom Vote campaign is directed at potential Negro voters, regardless of whether they are registered. The plan is to place ballot boxes in churches in nearly 20 cities during the week prior to Nov. 4, to give Negroes an opportunity to cast ballots in support of COFO's program.

COFO's aim is to demonstrate that Mississippi Negroes want to vote, but are not permitted to do so, COFO Director Robert Moses, 28, told the meeting.

The balloting, Moses said, is directed against literacy and interpretation tests administered to Negroes by white voter registrars.

Literacy tests should not be required, Moses explained, because the state has not provided Negroes with adequate literacy education. COFO Director Moses heads the Mississippi registration program of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Dr. Henry said there is no right or wrong in the interpretation tests. The only standard, he said, is what satisfies each white registrar.

COFO decided to continue and intensify voter registration campaigns in 20 cities from the Delta region to the Gulf. The registration campaigns will be aimed at the 1964, '66 and '67 elections for all national and state offices.

The strategy includes the development of political education clubs in local communities to provide issues and candidates at which voter registration can be directed.

Arrangements were made to continue the food and clothing distribution in the Delta communities where "poverty is most severe."

COFO is an affiliation of autonomous local groups and the major civil rights organizations.