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MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT LAUNCHED

*This file*

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - "At least 2,000" full time civil rights workers will conduct voter registration and political education programs in Mississippi this summer, according to civil rights worker Robert Moses.

The announcement of the "Mississippi Summer Project" came from a day-long conference of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) here March 15. COFO is a coalition of national and local civil rights groups working in Mississippi.

COFO leaders said the "Freedom Summer" plans included recruiting 1,000 white and Negro college students to man "Freedom Schools", Community Centers and to work on a voter registration drive. The group will also run two Negroes for Congress in the state's 2nd and 5th Congressional Districts.

COFO Chairman Dr. Aaron Henry of Clarksdale, state NAACP head, said Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville would oppose Representative Jamie Whitten of Charleston in the 2nd District and Reverend John Cameron of Hattiesburg would oppose Representative William Colmer of Pascagoula in the 5th District. The two Negro candidates will also run in a "Freedom Primary" corresponding with the state's Democratic primary, COFO workers said.

If both lose, they plan to challenge the seating of the winning candidates. "We intend to challenge whether the country will permit people to be elected from districts where Negroes are not allowed to vote", COFO Program Director Moses said.

Moses, who has headed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) vote drive here since 1961, and Dave Dennis of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) will head up the summer drive.

Moses and Dennis said the summer campaign would include:

:FREEDOM SCHOOLS that will give youth and adults political education as well as courses common to a high school curriculum;

:COMMUNITY CENTERS that will provide recreational facilities, instruction in pre-natal care, nutrition, job retraining, arts and craft classes, organized sports and libraries;

FREEDOM REGISTRATION that will register 400,000 Negroes on mock polling lists to "prove Negroes in Mississippi will register to vote if they are allowed to."

:FREEDOM ELECTION held during the state's Democratic primary on June 2 to indicate Mississippi Negroes are not satisfied with present candidates;

:Challenging the seating of Mississippi Congressmen on the floor of the House of Representatives on the basis that many Negroes are denied to right to vote in the state;

:VOTER REGISTRATION drives that will attempt to register an added 25,000 Negroes;

:EMERGENCY RELIEF AND WELFARE AID for Negroes who face job losses or evictions because of their participation in the vote drive.

Moses said the Freedom Schools, in addition to giving students a chance to learn subjects poorly taught in Mississippi's Negro schools, would teach the "politics of Mississippi" and would begin to build a core of educated leadership in the state.

Dennis and Moses said the Freedom Registration drive would try to register "more Negroes than could possibly register" under present discriminatory standards.

Dr. Henry said students were being recruited from the summer at 7 Freedom Centers located at Northern college campuses and in large cities

COFO plans call for Freedom Summer operation in twenty-nine locations scattered throughout the state's five congressional districts.