

MISSISSIPPI NEGRO CANDIDATE HAS STRONG
RIGHTS PLATFORM

CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI, APRIL 1, 1964 - The first Negro woman to run for Congress from Mississippi told a campaign meeting here tonight she wanted to "go to Washington to right the wrongs" done Negroes by the incumbent 2nd Congressional District Congressman Representative Jamie Whitten (D-Miss.).

Mississippi's first Negro woman candidate for Congress told the rally her platform was achieving "justice today for all Mississippians."

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, 47, of Ruleville, qualified to run in the June 2 Mississippi Democratic primary. She plans to challenge Representative Whitten's right to a seat in the United States House of Representatives if she is defeated. Mrs. Hamer will also face Representative Whitten in a "Freedom Ballot" vote, when disenfranchised Mississippi Negroes will cast votes in a mock election.

Mrs. Hamer told the campaign meeting she was demanding what belongs to her. She said she had been fired from jobs as a bookkeeper and sharecropper because she tried to register to vote.

She was allowed to register in Indianola (Sunflower County, home of Senator James O. Eastland) in September, 1963.

"You must all help fight Jamie Whitten," Mrs. Hamer said, "so we can bring democracy to this country."

She is one of three Negroes running for Congress in the state. Her campaign will continue through the Delta.

Mrs. Hamer's campaign is being supported by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a coalition of civil rights groups active in the state. COFO sponsored a "Freedom Vote For Governor" last November.

"That campaign was met with harrassment, arrests and intimidation from police" Mrs. Hamer said. She has asked Whitten to insure her campaign will be protected by law enforcement officials.