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# MISSISSIPPI Freedom Democratic Party

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### STATEMENT OF:

- Mrs. VICTORIA GRAY, Temporary National Committeewoman
- Mr. EDWIN KING, Temporary National Committeeman
- Mr. AARON HENRY, Chairman, Temporary State Executive Committee

Today's Democratic State Convention was probably one of the greatest examples of hypocritical political expediency in American history. The reasons behind the decision to send a delegation to the Democratic National Convention and to defer the choosing of presidential electors until Sept. are clear: the so-called Mississippi Democratic Party hopes to ward off the threat that the National Democratic Party may seat a delegation from the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in Atlantic City.

By resolving that in September both pledged and unpledged electors would be placed on the ballot, the Mississippi Party hopes to tempt the national party with at least the possibility of their supporting the national candidates in September. But transparent ruse was used in 1960, and it is common knowledge that at that time the Mississippi party threw its whole weight behind the unpledged electors and denounced the national candidates. Furthermore, it is entirely possible that the resolution to have a second slate of pledged electors may be revoked in September.

(MORE)

We of the Freedom Democratic Party have faith that whatever political expediency may lead the Mississippi Democratic Party to say publically, the national Democratic Party would no longer tolerate within its ranks a state which excludes almost one-half the state's population from political participation, and boasts of its monopoly control over a state government which denies them the right to vote. This, the moral question of racism in the Democratic Party remains the major challenge facing the 1964 Democratic National Convention.