

[@ AUG 15, 1964]

X

MISSISSIPPI
Freedom Democratic Party

*Freedom
Dems.*

1017 LYNCH STREET
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - 39203
Telephone: (601) 352-9603

Washington Office:
1353 'U' STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. - 20009
Telephone: (202) 332-7722

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D. C. --The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party opened its legal attack today in its drive to be seated at the Democratic National Convention. In a letter to John M. Bailey, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Mr. Lawrence Guyot newly elected Chairman of the Freedom Democratic Party, said that the 68 Freedom delegates and alternates elected at yesterday's state wide convention were "entitled to be seated at the Atlantic City Convention in place of the 'regular' delegation which seeks to be seated in violation of the Rules of the Convention and the Constitution of the United States".

The letter, which was delivered August 7th by Mr. Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., Washington attorney for the Freedom Democratic Party, asked that both Mr. Rauh and Mr. Aaron Henry "be permitted to appear before the Credentials Subcommittee of the National Democratic Committee... and before the Credentials Committee of the Convention to present our case". Mr. Henry was elected chairman of the convention delegation at yesterday's convention. Mr. Guyot's letter also contained a full list of delegates which was certified at the Convention.

(MORE)

X

GUYOT LETTER P. 2

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's State Convention, held yesterday, August 6th in Jackson, Mississippi, followed a summer of Precinct meetings, County conventions, and District caucuses. This was the first Convention held by the Party since its founding in Jackson on April 26, 1964, and some observers said it was the first democratic State Convention held since reconstruction.

The 'regular' party held its convention July 28th. It recessed at that time until September 9th so as to avoid an open confrontation with the National Democratic Party by backing Senator Goldwater before the National Democratic Convention meets.

-30-

Text of letter attached.

August 6, 1964

Mr. John M. Bailey, Chairman
Democratic National Committee
1730 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Bailey:

On July 17, 1964, Mr. Aaron Henry, acting Chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, wrote and informed you that, at the State Convention of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party on August 6, there would be elected delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City.

This is to inform you officially that the State Convention of the Freedom Party met in Jackson earlier today, and to further inform you that I have now been elected chairman of the Freedom Party.

The State Convention consisted of delegates from county conventions which, in turn, were predicated upon precinct conventions, as required by Mississippi law.

The State Convention elected a delegation to the National Convention and the members of this delegation are listed in full on the attachment. I hereby certify on behalf of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that these delegates and alternates were duly elected by the Freedom Party at its State Convention on this date, that they are loyal to the United States Constitution and to the National Democratic Party and are the true representatives of Mississippi Democrats. They are therefore entitled to be seated at the Atlantic City Convention in place of the "regular" delegation which seeks to be seated in violation of the Rules of the Convention and the Constitution of the United States and with total disloyalty to the National Party.

Mr. Aaron Henry has been elected Chairman of the delegation to the National Convention. I ask that he be permitted to appear before the Credentials Subcommittee of the National Democratic Committee, along with our Counsel, Joseph L. Rauh, Jr., to present our case for seating on the temporary rolls of the Convention and before the Credentials Committee of the Convention to

present our case for seating on the permanent rolls of the Convention. A Brief on the factual and legal aspects of this contest is being prepared by Mr. Rauh and will be submitted to your office not later than noon, Tuesday, August 18.

Yours for a National Democratic Party landslide in 1964!

Sincerely yours,

Laurence Guyot, Chairman
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Certified by:

Mrs. Peggy J. Connoy, Secretary
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party

Enclosure