

"DEMOCRATIC" OUTLAWED FOR FREEDOM PARTY

JACKSON, MISS - A state court judge has made permanent an injunction barring the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) from using the word "democratic" in its title.

The MFDP challenged the right of the regular all-white state Democratic Party to sit at the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City this summer.

State officials, acting in behalf of the regular party organization, sought and received a temporary restraining order from State Chancery Court Judge Stokes Robertson restraining 10 MFDP officials and the party itself from operating in the state.

The order, handed down before the National Convention, would have held those named in contempt of court. The order was subsequently amended so that only business carried on by the MFDP within Mississippi was proscribed.

The permanent injunction, handed down November 17, prohibits the party from using the name "democratic" since the traditional party has registered that name under state law for its own use. The MFDP argued that it was the only party in the state with any allegiance to the national Democratic Party and thus the only party with any right to the name.

The previous injunction was not honored by the MFDP and it has continued to operate. In a state-wide "Freedom Vote" held October 29 through November 2, 68,029 Negroes in 56 of the state's 82 counties cast "Freedom Votes" for four Negro candidates and the Johnson - Humphrey ticket under the MFDP banner. ("Underground" ballots were mailed to the MFDP office here from most of the other 26 counties.)

In 37 counties, more MFDP ballots were cast than were cast on November 3 for the regular Democratic slate, which lost Mississippi 53,063 to 359,693 for the national Republican ticket.

The MFDP supported the Johnson - Humphrey slate in the "Freedom Vote" and in the regular November 3 election, although not one member of Mississippi's traditional delegation supported the national ticket and one member, Rep. John Bell Williams, actively supported Republican loser Senator Barry Goldwater.

Lawrence Guyot, state chairman of the MFDP, announced from the Freedom Party's Washington, D. C. office that the four MFDP candidates would challenge the seating of the regulars when Congress reconvenes next January.