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JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - Negro citizens of Mississippi are not being asked to refuse to participate in the war in Viet Nam, the head of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party said last week.

But Freedom Democratic Party (FDP) Chairman Lawrence Guyot said it is easy to understand why Mississippi Negroes, "themselves the victims of bombings, terrorism and harassment," should resent the death of a Mississippi Negro killed while fighting for America overseas.

The statement followed newspaper, radio and television reports that the MFDP had urged Mississippi Negroes not to register for the draft and not to fight if drafted.

MFDP Chairman Guyot, a Pass Christian, Mississippi native, said no unit of the state-wide party had taken such a position. Guyot said members of the party in McComb, Mississippi had circulated leaflets following the Viet Nam death of 23-year-old John D. Shaw, a participant in anti-segregation protests in McComb in 1961.

Guyot charged that state and national news media ignored most MFDP activities and chose the leaflet incident, "not an official MFDP action, to highlight, and did so in a manner to mis-represent the facts."

Guyot said the predominately Negro party respected the right of its members to "discuss and act on all issues." He said MFDP members "have displayed the greatest faith in the American constitutional system as witnessed by the present effort in the Congressional challenge delegation from Mississippi.

The party is challenging Mississippi's five members of the United States House of Representatives. The FDP maintains that since Mississippi Negroes were not allowed to vote in the state's elections, the five congressmen were illegally elected, and should be denied their seats.