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THE LOYAL DEMOCRATS OF MISSISSIPPI

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news release

FOR RELEASE:

HAZLEHURST, Aug. 6, --- Charles Evers, the Mississippi civil rights leader who turned down a seat on Mississippi's regular Democratic Party delegation to the national convention in Chicago, has been elected a delegate by a loyalist faction which plans to challenge the regulars.

Evers was one of four persons named at a third congressional/district caucus of Loyal Democrats of Mississippi here Monday night. Also elected were Mrs. Pat Darian, a Jackson housewife; Dan Cupit of Jackson, an Ole Miss law student and Young Democrats leader; and Al Rhodes of Jackson. Rhodes was a leader in a recent unsuccessful campaign by Evers for the Democratic nomination to Congress from the district. Rhodes has been active in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Caucuses held over the weekend added eight other names to the list of loyalists who will travel to the Democratic National Convention hoping to unseat the state's regular delegation dominated by Gov. John Bell Williams.

Elected as loyalist delegates from the fifth district were John Phillip Posey, an associate professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi; Rev. Allen Johnson, a Methodist minister in Laurel; International Longshoremen Union leader Wilson Evans of Gulfport and Rev. A.W. Franklin of Pascagoula.

Second district delegates are Aaron Henry of Clarksdale, a pharmacist and state NAACP president; Rev. O.W. Ingram of Marks, a Baptist preacher; state Young Democrats secretary Bob Boyd; and Clarksdale planter Oscar Carr. Carr and Evers were state campaign leaders for the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

In addition to the four delegates and two alternates elected by the loyal Democrats from each of the state's five congressional districts, another 24 delegates and 10 alternates will be chosen at the loyalists' state convention Sunday in Jackson.

Loyalists

add one

The state convention, which will follow precinct and county conventions and congressional district caucuses of Loyal Democrats throughout the state, will elect 24 delegates and 10 alternates to the national Democratic convention which convenes August 26 in Chicago.

They will be joined by another 20 delegates and 10 alternates selected at the district caucuses.

State convention committees will begin meeting at noon Saturday, Henry said, and the general sessions of the convention is headquartered at the Masonic Temple building at 1072 W. Lynch St. in Jackson.

Loyal Democrats of Mississippi was organized after Negroes and white loyalists charged discrimination and "gross irregularities" in the regular Democratic Party's conduct of local party conventions.

The Loyalist movement is backed by six organizations in the state; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, The Mississippi Young Democrats, the State AFL-CIO, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, the Mississippi Teachers Association, and Prince Hall Masons.

The Loyalists charged that the state party exercised tokenism in the election of three Negroes to serve on the state party's delegation to Chicago. One of the three, NAACP field secretary Charles Evers, has been an active participant in the challenge. He resigned his seat on the regular delegation.

STEERING COMMITTEE OF LOYAL DEMOCRATS

Mr. Hodding Carter, III
Greenville, Miss.

Prof. C.J. Duckworth
Biloxi, Miss.

Dr. Gilbert Nason
Biloxi, Miss.

Attorney Fred Berger
Natchez, Miss. 39120

Mr. James C. Gilliam
Clarksdale, Miss.

Miss Unita Blackwo
Mayersville, Miss.

Mr. Jesse Epps
Clarksdale, Miss.

Mr. Cleo Jackson
Clarksdale, Miss.

Prof. Dan Smith
Cleveland, Miss.

Mr. Oscar Carr
Clarksdale, Miss.

Mr. Claude Ramsey
Jackson, Miss.

Mr. Danny Cupit
Jackson, Miss.

Attorney Wes Watkins
Greenville, Miss.

Mr. Thomas Knight
Jackson, Miss.

Attorney Lm. Reedy
Meridian, Miss.

Mr. Charles Young
Meridian, Miss.

Mr. Wilson Evans
Gulfport, Miss.

Mr. Flavous Hutchinson
State College, Miss.

Attorney Douglas Wynn
Greenville, Miss.

Mr. Robert Woodson
Jackson, Miss.

Dr. Mathew J. Page
Greenville, Miss.

Mr. Lawrence Guyot
Edwards, Miss.

Mr. Jones A. Fitzhug
Jackson, Miss.

Dr. Feliz H. Dunn
Gulfport, Miss.

Rev. Ed. King
Edwards, Miss.

Mr. Hardie Lewis
Vicksburg, Miss.

Attorney Jack H. Young
Jackson, Miss.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hauser
Ruleville, Miss.

Mr. John A. Scott
Natchez, Miss.

Attorney John Kennedy
Holly Spring, Miss.

Rep. Robert Clark
Lexington, Miss.

Mr. Robert Earl Thomas
Greenwood, Miss.

Rev. John Argood
Biloxi, Miss.

Miss Victoria Gray
Edwards, Miss.

Mr. Louis Turner
Jackson, Miss.

Mr. Clarence Hall
Glen Allan, Miss.

Mr. Clifton Whitley
West Point, Miss.

Rev. R. L. T. Smith
Jackson, Miss.

Mr. Jesse Williams
Yazoo City, Miss.

Mr. Aaron Henry
Clarksdale, Miss.

Mr. Joseph Harris
Lexington, Miss.

Rev. Allen Johnson
Laurel, Miss.

Prof. D.T. Hawkins
Forest, Miss.

Mr. Charles Evers
Jackson, Miss.