Miss. Demos Face Party Challenge

JACKSON, MISS. - A delegation from the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party will go to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City on Aug. 24 to challenge the seating of regular Mississippi Democratic party delegates.

The Freedom Democratic Party is an outgrowth of a voter registration drive begun in the state three years ago by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, now joined by the NAACP, CORE and SCLC under the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO).

The new party also plans to challenge seating in Congress of successful Democratic candidates in this year's election for the junior U.S. Senate and the state's five Congressmen. Four Negroes are running for seats in the House and Senate.

A Freedom Party spokesman said the basis for the challenge was "that the regular Democratic delegation was chosen by undemocratic means and that the Democratic Party of Mississippi has been disloyal to the national Democratic Party."

SNCC CHAIRMAN JOHN LEWIS is carried away by Nashville policeman after his arrest there April 29. Lewis, formerly chairman of the Nashville Student Nonviolent Movement, returned here to participate in protests against segregated eating places.

TERROR REIGNS IN MISSISSIPPI

NATCHEZ, MISS. — The director of SNCC's Mississippi project testified May 6 that five Negroes had been killed in southeast Mississippi in recent months, and called for investigation by the United States Department of Justice.

Robert Moses, 28, told a meeting of the State Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission that no one had been arrested or indicted for the mysterious slayings.

Moses is program director of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a coalition of

2,000 Register After N.C. Judge Calls End To Registration Stall

ENFIELD, N.C. - More than 2,000 Negroes are now registered voters in Halifax County after two "Freedom Days" here.

The concentrated vote drive here is keyed to the campaigns of 11 Negroes for public office-the largest number of Negroes to run for office in any county in the South since Reconstruction.

SNCC workers J.V. Henry and Douglas Harris are assisting the Halifax County Voters Movement in the drive.

On May 8, Federal Judge Lar-CONCLUDED ON PAGE 3

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SNCC worker Bernard Lafayette.

Some form of protest demonstration has occurred every day for the last three weeks, he said.

Main targets of the recent student-initiated desegregation campaign have been Morrison's Cafeteria, Tic Toc and Krystal's restaurants.

Close to 300 persons have been arrested since demonstrations renewed here, Lafayette said.

Twice arrested Lester McKinzie, 22, was injured by police
CAMBRIDGE, MD. - The appearance of Alabama Governor George Wallace touched off new demonstrations here.

A succession of night time marches were repulsed by Maryland National Guardsmen with bayonets and tear gas.

At least 65 people were hospitalized or required medical treatment.

SNCC field secretary Clifford Vaughn received stitches for a bayonet wound.

The chief under the command of General George Gelston and Col. Tawes has been CNAC, Col. Tawes has been employed Negroes to participate in the movement.

The guard under the command of General George Gelston and Col. Tawes has been in Cambridge since June 14, 1963.

The Guard was called into the city by Gov. J. Millard Tawes after a march downtown had erupted into a near riot.

The marches were a shift in tactics from earlier picketing and sit-ins. The new tactic allowed hundreds of unemployed Negroes to participate in the movement.

CNAC FORMED


A formal organization was started and throughout the spring the new Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee (CNAC) demonstrated at local accommodations.

Local whites in the face of rising protests agreed to Negro demands and for the first of many times the whites reneged on their promises.

The summer brought a shift to voter registration which slowly put the movement in hibernation for the fall and winter.

In the spring of 1963 a stiffening of the Jim Crow arrangement in the movie theater brought renewed protests in public accommodations.

The protests took the form of sit-ins and picketing at local accommodations. In early June the tactics shifted and with this shift came a new involvement for hundreds of unemployed Negroes.

AGREEMENT SIGNED

In mid-July, 1964 Mrs. Gloria Richardson, chairman of CNAC, along with other rights leaders, signed an agreement with the white leaders of Cambridge. The pact was signed in Washington at the office of Attorney General Robert Kennedy. The agreement was signed, with the hope that the backing of the Federal Government would make the local white leaders keep their promises.

PACT NOT IMPLEMENTED

The provisions of the agreement and their current implementation are:

1. A city charter amendment banning discrimination in public accommodations. The amendment was petitioned to referendum and on Oct. 1, 1963 lost in an election in which over half the Negro community stayed away from the polls, upon the urging of Mrs. Richardson. Much of the community felt that they should not have to vote for their constitutional rights.

2. Demanding the city hire a Negro as a city manager.

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SNCC WORKER RELEASED IN LA.

BATON ROUGE, LA.—A former member was released from jail here May 6 after serving 60 days behind bars.

Dion T. Diamond, 23, was arrested and convicted on “disorderly conduct” charges in 1961. He served 59 days then on a charge of “criminal anarchy” and was held under a $7,000 bond. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to overturn his conviction and he was forced to interrupt his schooling at the University of Wisconsin to serve his time. Diamond plans to return to Wisconsin to serve his time.

CAMBRIDGE

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against his branch of the Democratic party, both locally and throughout the South.

Leaders in Cambridge feel that these demonstrations are a mandate to the national Democratic Party to seat the Freedom delegation.

PARTY CHALLENGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In 1960, the regular Democrats in Mississippi did not support the late President Kennedy and the then vice presidential candidate, Lyndon B. Johnson. The state organization also repudiated the national platform of the party.

“Freedom Democratic Party workers will hold precinct, county, district and state conventions that exactly parallel the regular Democratic procedure,” a vote worker said.

The Freedom Democratic Party is conducting a statewide Freedom Registration with a goal of registering 400,000 disenfranchised Negroes. Freedom Registration books are being set up in the state’s 82 counties and will be used for unofficial Freedom Elections at the same time as the official June 2 Democratic primary and the November general election.

TOUGALOO COLLEGE STUDENT AUSTIN MOORE carries a charred cross past 4,000 demonstrators at the Methodist General Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on May 2. The demonstrators were protesting a plan initiated to eliminate, over a four year period, the church’s all Negro, non-geographic, Central Jurisdiction. Moore, who heads the Artistic and Cultural Committee of the SNCC affiliate at Tougaloo College near Jackson, has worked with other Tougaloo students and Methodist ministers to integrate all-white churches in Jackson. The Tougaloo SNCC affiliate also initiated a boycott of Mississippi events by musical, government and other public figures.

MISSION TERROR

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Rights groups working in the state. COFO is planning a summer project which includes voter registration and Freedom Schools.

Mississippi newspapers have reported the formation of anti-Negro, anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic groups in southwest Mississippi. The groups, the Society for the Preservation of the White Race (SPWR) and Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), are supported by anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic groups in southwest Mississippi. The groups, the Society for the Preservation of the White Race (SPWR) and Americans for the Preservation of the White Race (APWR), are supported by anti-Catholic and anti-Semitic groups in southwest Mississippi.

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CANDIDATE CRITICIZES RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT

CANTON, MISS. — The civil rights bill before the U.S. Senate is “unsatisfactory and extremely vague,” according to Mississippi’s first Negro candidate for the Senate.

Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray, 37, of Hattiesburg, seeks the Democratic primary nomination for the seat held by Sen. John C. Stennis.

“How can we expect many civil rights legislation will bring needed change when, despite laws on the books since 1865, 1870 and 1948, there were only 55 Negroes registered to vote in Forrest County as of Jan. 1, 1964, and 7,400 are eligible,” she asked a campaign audience here May 2.

“Since Aug. 1964, a Justice Department-initiated suit against registrar Theron Lynd has been in litigation. And although 850 Negroes have sought to register since the intensified vote drive began in Hattiesburg on Jan. 22, 1964, only 145 more Negroes have been registered,” she said.

She stated that 43 of the 55 registered prior to Jan. 22 were ordered registered by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals after several delays.

Mrs. Gray charged the good moral character provision of Mississippi’s voting requirements that names of prospective voters be published in local newspapers for two weeks after rejected in “suddenly-raised rent, eviction, bills for nonexistent repairs on rented property, reassessed property taxes, or newly discovered violations of building codes,” she said.

Mrs. Gray’s husband, a plumber, was fired from his job with the city of Hattiesburg last week. He had been employed by the Water Works Division of the city, and was relieved of his job when he took a week off to attend a citizenship school sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in McIntosh, Ga.
NEWS ROUNDUP

GRENADA, MISS. — An open air rally for two of Mississippi’s Negro Congressional candidates was held at a Federal park Grenada Lake, near here Saturday May 8.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, 47, of Ruleville is campaigning against Rep. James Whitten of the 2nd Congressional District who is running for his 13th term. Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray is seeking his fourth term. Mrs. Gray is 37, from Hattiesburg, and the mother of three children.

The two women were the featured speakers at the Grenada Lake outing in central Mississippi.

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VICKSBURG, MISS. — Over 900 students suspended from Alcorn College in Lorman, Miss. may be readmitted at the intervention of the school’s alumni association. The students were shipped to their homes two weeks ago after an all-night sit-in protesting rigid administration rules.

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GREENVILLE, MISS. — Three Negroes were "cordially admitted" to a meeting here May 6 of Republican Party precinct meeting. Members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party plan a challenge of the all-white Mississippi regular Democratic Party at Atlantic City in August, charging Negroes are excluded from participation in the party.

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JACKSON, MISS. — Three COFO workers were jailed here May 6 at the city's train station after they took Mrs. Victoria Gray and Mr. James Houston, candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, to the station. The three were held overnight.

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HATTIESBURG, MISS. — Two COFO workers, Lawrence Guyot and Willie Mae Smith, were released on $500 property bonds May 13 and a third, Billy McDonald, remained in jail. Guyot who heads the 5th Congressional District vote drive, and the others were charged with interfering with an officer.

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CAMDEN, ALA. — Two white ministers from the United Presbyterian Church were attacked and beaten in a hotel room here May 12. The two were in Wilcox County to survey Negro districts of the church. One suffered a broken arm when an unidentified white man "broke his shotgun over me," tires on their car slashed and they were forced to hitchhike 30 miles to Selma.

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PRINCESS ANNE, Md. — Two Somerset County judges found 29 Maryland State College students guilty on May 8 on charges arising from a Feb. 26 anti-segregation demonstration. All were fined $25 on disorderly conduct charges and were released on $50 bail each pending appeal.

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HALIFAX COUNTY, N.C. — SNCC worker J.V. Henry was released from jail here May 8 on $2400 bail. Henry had been jailed in connection with anti-segregation protests in Chapel Hill last winter.

NASHVILLE

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in both instances, McKinnie heads the local SNCC group.

"Beside police brutality, in this city, local courts have played havoc with justice," Lafayette stated. Two Negro law-yers, Z. Alexander Looby and Avon Williams, were arrested for contempt of court May 9. At the time they were pleading cases arising from the demonstrations before metropolitan court judge Andrew Doyle. They were released from jail when Nashville Mayor Beverly Briley paid their $10 fine several hours later.

A new anti-segregation tactic was used when 200 white students from predominantly white colleges here "sipped-in" at Morrison’s Cafeteria May 3.

Business was tied up for two hours when they ordered coffee and then refused to leave.

Other white residents have joined the protests, including several ministers and rabbis, SNCC Chairman, John Lewis, 24, first became active in civil rights while a student at Fisk University in Nashville. He was also injured by police in recent demonstrations here when he was arrested for his 32nd time.

NORTH CAROLINA

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The Student Voice
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Two county registrars resigned on May 10, and the Halifax County Voter’s Movement asked that Negroes be hired to replace them.

Negroes outnumber white 32,000 to 26,000 in the county. Negro registration attempts here are kept at a minimum by harassment. Those Negroes who do try to register face a stringent literacy test, though median education for Negroes in the county is six years.