DEM TO TRY TO OUST DEFECTORS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--A group of Democratic Congressmen are attempting to throw out two members of their party.

Liberal Democratic Congressmen are trying to purge Mississippi Congressman John Bell Williams and South Carolina Congressman Albert Watson, two Democrats who supported Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater.

Members of the Liberal Study Group are asking the Democratic caucus in the House of Representatives to deprive Williams and Watson of their status as Democrats, to remove them from Committee posts and deprive them of seniority.

Williams is the second ranking member of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee and serves on the House District of Columbia Committee. Watson is a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

The Democratic Caucus is composed of all House Democrats, MRS. FANNIE LOU HAMER (center) and other members of the MFDP delegation at Atlantic City. A 68-man strong MFDP delegation challenged the right of the all-white party to represent Mississippi at the National Convention.

Congressman to Object To Miss. Reps. Seating

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- A New York Congressman has announced here that he would object to the swearing in of five so-called congressmen-elect from Mississippi on January 4, 1964, when Congress convenes.

Democratic Congressman William F. Ryan stated that he would propose to the House that no congressman be sworn in to occupy the state's seats "until all city notices of contest must be filed within 30 days after certification of the results of an election, The contested members then have thirty days to reply which would be on or about February 20, 1965. The law then provides for forty days in which the MFDP can gather testimony to support its case. The Freedom Party may use federal subpoena power to take testimony in public hearings throughout the state. These hearings could run until about February 20, 1965. The contested

Grass Roots Party Swells Membership

JACKSON, MISS. -- From its founding convention here last April, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) has grown to become the state's largest grass-roots organization. At a state-wide convention here April 26, 1964, over 200 people representing nearly every part of Mississippi agreed to establish the MFDP. They elected a temporary state executive committee of 15 people (3 from each congressional district) and named Dr. Aaron Henry, a Clarksdale dentist and President of the State Conference of NAACP Branches, President.

A state-wide "Freedom Vote" in November, 1963 had laid the broad base the MFDP now operates from. In that "Freedom Vote," over 80,000 people cast ballots for Dr. Henry, Freedom Vote Candidate for Governor, and the Reverend Edwin King, Freedom Vote Candidate for Lt. Governor.

From that meeting last April came the decision to challenge the regular white Democratic delegation from Mississippi at the National Democratic Convention at Atlantic City, and run four Negro candidates in the June 2 Democratic Primary.

The four -- Mrs. Victoria Gray and the Reverend John Earl Cameron, both of Hattiesburg; Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville and James M. Houston of Vicksburg -- ran against white candidates in the primary and were defeated.

The Atlantic City challenge by the MFDP received world-wide attention, as a 60-man strong MFDP delegation, pledged to support the national Democratic party, fought for the rebel all-white state Democratic Party group. Although the MFDP pledged to all-white party to represent Mississippi would be totally excluded from the electoral process,...
Contested Election
(continued from page 1)
representatives then have
an equal amount of time
for testimony under the
same conditions. They
may take testimony until
about March 20.

The MFDP then has ten
days to take rebuttal testi-
mony. On or about April
I, all the evidence must
be formally mailed to the
Clerk of the House of Rep-
resentatives. The parties
concerned are personally
called before the clerk to
decide how much of the
testimony will become a
part of the official record.

The printed record is
distributed to the House
Committee on Elections and
Privileges of the House
Administration
Committee. The Freedom
Democrats have thirty days
to file their brief before
the subcommittee and the
contested parties have
thirty days to answer.

At this point the Sub-
committee on Elections and
Privileges has full juris-
diction over the matter.
The subcommittee may
hold public hearings. The
subcommittee will then
vote on its position and
present it to the House of
Representatives in the
form of a resolution. The
entire process should be
completed by July, 1965.

The MFDP is also chal-
ing the elections of June 2 and November 3 on the
grounds they violated the
1870 Compact between
Mississippi and the Con-
gress of the United States.

The Freedom Democrats
content that in the Act of
February 23, 1870, Missis-
sippi was allowed to re-
enter the Union on the con-
dition that it would never
change its Constitution,
which at that time provide
for universal male suffrage
with simple residence and age
requirements.

Under the compact the
State of Mississippi was
to abide by the conditions
of the Act "in good faith
(as a condition . . . to the
representation of the state
in Congress."

The MFDP charges that
since 1890 the state of
Mississippi has "arrogantly
repudiated its solemn com-
 pact with the Congress of
the United States . . . " by the almost
total disenfranchising
of the Negro citizens of the
state.

We are not asking Con-
gress to punish Mississip-
pi, said Lawrence Guyot,
Chairman of the Missis-
sippi Freedom Demo-
ocratic Party.

"We are merely asking
in our challenges that the
House recognize the simple
fact that the rigidly segre-
gated and undemocratic
political system in that
state which disenfranchis-
es 428,600 Negroes has by
that fact disqualified itself
from participation in the
U.S. Congress," he stated.

The Freedom group is
also contesting the election
under Article I, Section 2
of the Constitution, and the
Thirteenth, Fourteenth and
Fifteenth Amendments.

Article I, Section 2 states
that the "House of Repre-
sentatives shall be com-
posed of Members chosen
every second year BY
THE PEOPLE of the
several states . . . " Mrs.
Hamer stated that Jamie
Whitten was "not 'chosen'
... by the people" as re-
quired by the Constitution.

More than 50% of this dis-
trict's (the 2nd) adult
population have been sys-
tematically excluded from
these purported elec-
tions."


The MFDP is also call-
ing for a "Fairness Re-
solution" to be presented
on the first day of Con-
gress in the House of Rep-
resentatives. The Free-
don Party is calling for
the procedure in which a
member of the House may
object to the oath being
administered to a contest-
ed Congressman. The
speaker can then instruct
the contested person to
remain seated while the
others are sworn in.

A resolution may next be
introduced which provides,
in all fairness, no one
should sit in the contested
seats until the final de-
cision by the House sub-
committee.

The three ladies were
elected in a "Freedom
Vote" held Oct. 31 through
Nov. 2 by the MFDP. At
that time Mrs. Hamer de-
feated Rep. Whitten 33,009
to 39; Mrs. Devine defeated
Rep. Winstead 6,001 to
4; and Mrs. Gray's 10,138
dewart 33,009
to 39; Mrs. Devine defeated
Rep. Winstead 6,001 to
4; and Mrs. Gray's 10,138
dewart 33,009
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4; and Mrs. Gray's 10,138
dewart 33,009
to 39; Mrs. Devine defeated
Rep. Winstead 6,001 to
4; and Mrs. Gray's 10,138
votes defeated Rep. Col-
mer.

The ballot for the
"Freedom Vote" included
the candidates for presi-
dent from both major par-
ties, as well as the MFDP
candidates and their oppo-
nents. Ballots were cast
in 53 of the 82 counties.

The three women were
refused a place on the offi-
cial ballot in the state-
run election.

Congressman Objects
(continued from page 1)
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nents. Ballots were cast
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The three women were
refused a place on the offi-
official ballot in the state-
run election.

For facts and figures
on life in Mississippi,
write for "The General
Condition of the Mississip-
i Negro", SNCC, 6 Ray-
mond Street, Atlanta,
Georgia 30314.
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Community leaders from eight cities in Northern states met here with leaders of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) to lay plans for support of the Party's challenge of the Mississippi congressional delegation.

The meeting heard MFDP candidates Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Mrs. Annie Devine and Mrs. Victoria Gray discuss the growth and development of the MFDP and the reasons for the challenge. MFDP chairman Lawrence Guyot and MFDP legal counsel Attorney Arthur Kinoy outlined the legal and technical steps to be taken for the challenge and offered suggestions for organizing Northern support.

Represented at the November 26 meeting were community groups in New York; Newark, New Jersey; Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; Stanford, Connecticut; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Detroit, Michigan.

The Freedom Democratic Party candidate for the 2nd, District seat is Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer of Ruleville, Mississippi. Mrs. Hamer, delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, is 46 years of age and lives with her husband and adopted children in Sunflower County, site of Senator James O. Eastland's plantation.

Mrs. Hamer filed an application to register to vote on August 31, 1962 and was dismissed that same day from the job she had held for 18 years as time-keeper at a cotton plantation and forced to leave the home in which she had lived for that period. Ten days later 10 shots were fired into the house in which she was staying.

Mrs. Hamer has worked full time for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. While returning from a SNCC workshop on June 13, 1963, Mrs. Hamer was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct and severely beaten while in jail. She has identified the officers of the Mississippi Highway State Patrol who were responsible for her beating, but no action has been taken against them. The beating aggravated a childhood disorder, leaving one leg partially paralyzed, and she has never fully recovered from its effects.

Mississippi's Second Congressional District lies in the heart of the flat fertile area known as the Delta in which there is the heaviest concentration of Negroes in the state. The total Negro voting-age population in the Second District is 159,392.

Her opponent in the 2nd District is Rep. Jamie Whitten, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee of the Committee of Agriculture. The District has a Negro population comprising 98.6% of the total but only a small fraction of voting age Negroes are registered. In the Freedom Vote held in Mississippi Oct. 30-Nov. 2, Mrs. Hamer received 33,009 Freedom Votes.

In a recent campaign speech, Mrs. Hamer summed up the political needs of her District:

"Politically this district remains isolated from the mainstream of American life. Conditions currently prevailing in Mississippi are horrible. We have little industry and few towns. The dominant economic system is sharecropping and we have the lowest family income in the country. The people of the Delta know, in our hearts we want to change these conditions."

**MRS. VICTORIA GRAY**

MRS. VICTORIA GRAY, the 38-year-old Freedom Democratic Party candidate for Representative of the 5th District in Mississippi, lives with her husband and three children in Hattiesburg.

Mrs. Gray, who opposes Democratic incumbent William Colmer for the 5th District seat was educated at Washington College, Wilberforce, Ohio. She was a school teacher and business woman, and a former leader of the Student Non violent Coordinating Conference's citizenship program and is a member of the SCLC board of directors. She also serves on the General Board of Education of the

**MRS. ANNIE DEVINE**

Mr. Annie Devine was born in Mobile, Ala., and moved to Canton, Miss., when she was two years old. She has two years of university credit from Tougaloo. She has also worked as debt manager for the Security Life Insurance Company. In June, 1964, Mrs. Devine, long a leader in her community, joined the staff of the Congress of Racial Equality. Mrs. Devine believes in the need for "vigorous local participation in politics if Negroes are to receive their full rights in Mississippi."

In the November third election, Mrs. Devine opposed Democrat Arthur Winstead. In the Freedom Vote tally she received 9,011 Freedom Votes. She also served as Secretary of the MFDP delegation which went to the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City. The total population of voting age Negroes in the Fourth District, where Mrs. Devine ran, is 56,000.

"The real keys to freedom are education and organization. We have registered 500 Negroes in Madison County but there are more than 10,000 qualified to vote. The reason the White Citizens' Councils are so powerful in this state is because they are so well organized. It is in this that the forces of justice and emancipation has become organized, as the forces of injustice and oppression."

"But just as important, we must become better educated. This means political education and citizenship training for adults, and it means long, hard hours of studying by our younger generation. We want freedom, not only for our children, but for ourselves, now."

"But if we are to participate in our society as equals, and even to advance as individuals, we must concentrate on education with all the effort and all the determination with which we seek out freedom."

Mrs. Devine has been active in voter-education and citizenship workshops throughout the 4th District, particularly in her own county of Madison.

In the Fourth District Congressional Race, the Republican candidate Frederick Walker received 34,684 votes; the incumbent Democrat Arthur Winstead received 27,983.

If the 56,000 voting age Negroes in Mrs. Devine's district were allowed to vote, she might have been elected.

Methodist Church and is director of COFO's intensified voter registration program in Hattiesburg.

Mrs. Gray began attempts to register to vote in Forrest County in 1962. After five applications, and a hearing before a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, her name was added to the registration rolls in October, 1962.

Mrs. Gray opposed Senator John Stennis in the June 2 primary. There are roughly 28,169 Negroes of voting age in the district. In the Freedom Vote, October 30-Nov. 2, 1964, she received 10,158 votes from fewer than half of the counties in the District.

A National Committee woman for the MFDP, Mrs. Gray was one of the first people to house workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) when they first set up projects in Hattiesburg in 1961.

Anthony Gray, husband of the candidate, is by profession a plumber and his wife became director of the Water Works in the city of Hattiesburg but was dismissed from his job when Mrs. Gray refused to withdraw from the primary.
The Men Who Represent Mississippi

CONGRESSMEN DO NOT SUPPORT PARTY

The Mississippi Democratic Representatives who are being challenged hold many key committee positions, positions held through the seniority system in a national party to which they claim non-allegiance.


Their voting records reflect their lack of allegiance to the national party. On partisan roll calls in the 87th Congress, Colmer voted with the national party 19 times; Abernethy, 31 times. That is an average of 26 per cent while the average for all House Democrats were 71 per cent.

Rep. John Bell Williams supported the Republican presidential candidate, Barry Goldwater, during last fall's election. But this wasn't the first time he had defected. For example in 1956, when even the other Mississippi representatives were least vocally supporting the national Democratic ticket, Rep. Williams supported a States' Rights ticket, Williams, with Sen. Eastland and Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Tom Brady, worked out the philosophy of "interposition." This was the "law" the former Mississippi Governor, Barnett used when he defied the federal government at Ole Miss. He has voted against agricultural aid, against the Food Stamp legislation, the war on poverty, and other important measures.

Rep. Thomas Abernethy, though he has voted with the national party more than any other Mississippi representative, still has voted against Democratic administration backed social legislation. In both the 87th and 88th Congresses he even voted against the Area Redevelopment bills which were aimed at economically depressed areas such as parts of Mississippi. He also voted against a tax cut against accelerated public work against college aid, and so on.

Rep. William Colmer is against foreign aid, food stamp legislation, the war on poverty, and other important measures.

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Rep. William Colmer is against foreign aid, food stamp legislation, the war on poverty, and other important measures.

Rep. Jamie Whitten has fought for cotton subsidy and kept the price of beef high. At the same time he has led the fight against programs which would benefit the farm worker such as a tractor-driver training program. Other programs he has voted against include food stamp legislation and the war on poverty.

Rep. Preston Walker is the only Republican representative, with the help of the Goldwater sweep, he defeated incumbent Democrat Arthur Winstead. But Rep. Walker hasn't been a Republican for long. As a Democrat he had served as part of the Barnett administration on the Fish and Game Commission. In 1960, Walker was chairman of the unpledged elector movement for the 4th District. After his election as a Republican, his first public speech was made inBrandon, Miss., before the extremist Americans for the Preservation of the White Race. Members of the APWR were implicated in the McComb race-hate bombings.

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MFDP Grows

party loyalty and all but two members of the white group refused to do so, neither group was seated. The MFDP refused to accept two compromise "seats at large" and regular Democrats from Mississippi walked out of the convention.

At Atlantic City, MFDP had pledges of support from Democratic groups in California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oregon, New York and the District of Columbia, as well as from Democratic party members and office holders in other states. Pressure from top Democratic leaders, including President Lyndon B. Johnson, kept the group from achieving recognition despite its strong legal and moral stand.

One feature of the MFDP's growth leading to the Atlantic City Convention was "Freedom Registration" and the formation of a duplicate structure to the regular all-white Democratic party. "Freedom Registration" involved registering on "Freedom Registration" forms native Mississippians as members of the MFDP. Over 60,000 people were "Freedom Registered".

The building of the duplicate structure involved attempts by MFDP members to join the regular party structure. Negroes tried to attend precinct and county meetings throughout the state, and after being refused, held their own meetings and elected delegates to a state convention, which in turn elected the MFDP Atlantic City delegation.

In October, MFDP Candidates tried and failed to get their names placed on the general election ballot. The state election commission - composed of Governor Paul Johnson, Attorney General Joe Patterson and Secretary of State Heber Ladner - refused to place Mrs. Hamer, Dr. Henry and Mrs. Annie Devine on the November 3 ticket.

In addition, the MFDP has been enjoined against using the name "democratic" in its title.

Lawrence Guyot, a SNCC worker from Pass Christian, Mississippi, formerly 5th District Project Director and Political Programs Coordinator for COFO, is now MFDP State Chairman.

Guyot said the January, 1965 challenges by the MFDP "will once again bring to America's attention the repression and intimidation under which Mississippian Negroes live and die."