

April 20, 1964

Ben Smith  
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New Orleans, La.

Dear Ben,

I'm sure you've heard something about the plan of the Cofe folks to challenge the seating of the white delegation from Mississippi at the National Demo Convention. We're sort of coordinating parts of the program from here in Atlanta.

Here's why I'm writing you. Some have suggested there might be a form of legal action which could be brought against the Convention if the credentials committee seats the white delegation, and a floor challenge is unsuccessful. There's some question in my mind about the extent to which federal law and constitution apply to the doings of the convention, though I recall the federal courts ruling on the propriety of ~~subsequent~~ elector pledging in 1960. (This is peripheral, though, to convention doings, at best, isn't it?)

What is your opinion about the possibility of legal action against the convention--~~action~~ whatever the probability of success? If you think there's a possibility, could you give us an idea what kind of action it would be and what kinds of data would be required to support it? If there's any possibility of this kind of follow-up to the seating challenge, we don't want to be caught short of documentation. Obviously, there'd not be much time for research, etc., between the failure in the credentials committee and/or the failure of the floor challenge and the end of the convention.

If you haven't time to look into all this, can you suggest someone who could, and would you give us your opinion about the tactical propriety of such a move anyway?

My best regards to Bruce and Jack, et al

  
Jack Minnis

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