

Yellow Car.

MISSISSIPPI

Freedom Democratic Party

1017 LYNCH STREET
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - 39203
Telephone: (601) 352-9605

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1353 'U' STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 332-7732

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Dear Jack:

Please excuse the typewriter cleaner it will take a while to wear off. Also excuse the lack of my letters for a while but we were busy getting set in this office, or fighting with Monscrib in the other office or just traveling. Now we are more or less set. Our plans call for us to become more of a secondary organization from now on. We are trying to 1) do some mailings to the delegates, we are thinking in terms of three mailings. We are also thinking that we would like to get chain letters going in as many states and to as many delegates as possible. I know that Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are ready to do such a thing. The idea would be to get a group of 50-100 people and assign each person a delegate. This person would then write the delegate a letter urging him to back the seating and he would also write ten of his friends asking them to also write the delegate and to, each write ten of their friends. We are working up a chain letter kit which I will send you when it is done. The other mailings would be a simple letter and a news clip cut off from a state paper referring to the action taken by the state convention. This could only be done in the states where some official action has been taken. We were thinking that one letter could be signed by some big democrats, a second by some public persons such as K Baldwin and I don't know who would sign the third. Other than that we are now trying to get the California congressional delegation to sign a letter of endorsement and I am trying to get Diggs to initiate a Michigan Democrats Committee to seat the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (I don't know how I'll get that on one letterhead. Anyway I had to write to Crockett to ask him to write Diggs to get in touch with us so I don't know how much luck I'll have. In New York there is the germ of a committee forming but I think of that more of a march committee but they do have some prominent Demos on it. My travels have convinced me that you cannot beat the machine on anything big. The only thing you have to do is keep trying and hope that enough people learn that we have to discard the two parties and get one of our own. The reason I bring this up is because the chain letter and the committees are designed to keep some sort of pressure on the delegates as it is only through public pressure that we can keep the politicians from chickening out. So far we have gotten resolutions passed at the Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Mass. conventions. We do not as of yet have a copy of the Mass. resolution or the California but we hope to get them before the press conference we are planning to hold this Wednesday with Mrs. Hamer and Miss Baker. This letter is being continued Sat. which is the reason for the incongruity. New York Executive committee of the party passed a resolution which does not mention Miss but the instruction to the credentials committee people are pretty clear. One guy who introduced the resolution, Ray Guenter is also a lawyer and he wrote a memo which he circulated at the meeting suggesting that if the convention seats the regular clowns, then it might be possible for a NY state voter to challenge under NY state election law the placing on the ballot of the name of the VP

assuming that the VP is not nominated by acclamation. The reason being that the VP nominee was chosen by delegates who themselves were unconstitutionally elected. The threat is in the announcement to file such a suit or that you are considering filing such a suit not in the suit itself. We have to have a long conference with Kinoy about this and about the suit which he and Kunstler filed. I take it you have seen a copy of the complaint. It has three parts. One has to do with ~~the~~ making the pancake decision statewide, okay, two has to do with declaring the unpledged electors law unconstitutional okay, and three has to do with the setting aside of the precinct and county elections of the regular party. People here seem to think that if we loose that suit than the party would use that against us saying you lost in court what can we do. My thinking was to ask them to file an amended complaint dropping this part until Rauh wrote the enclosed letter after we gave him a copy of the complaint. My thinking now runs something like this. It now looks as politically we will win, we will get the seats because one it doesn't mean much and too the president will come out like a hero. I think I may have expressed this sentiment over the phone. Yet, I don't want to be quoted as being optimistic. However, it looks as if we can gain more from the suit if we win, and according to the three judge court they appointed we haven't got a chance--because if they seat us it will only be because of the pressure generated despite what Rauh or Higgs think and in a way we will be upon the ante on them. I think this was Miss Baker's thinking a while back. Knowing that the seating in itself doesn't mean much as locked as the suit has having more lasting effects. I hope this is coming through clear. I am afraid that Higgs and Rauh will block together to kind of tone us down. That's my latest worry. and ~~xxxxxxx~~ my wildest dreams, I can see Rauh withholding the brief at the last moment. For my purposes, I would like to see Bob argue the case before the credentials committee and to hell with Rauh. Again I would hope that Bob's case would rest on the people in the street rather than on what's on paper although I can't see how they can not seat us if it was the evidence which is all that counted. I am running on a bit but then I haven't written in a long time. I told you that word came from Clifford Carter, the president's man on the national committee that the president would "go along" if the pressure was kept up and that according to Higgs they are trying to replace the chairman of the credentials committee with Frank Thompson of NJ. I am sending you copies of Rauh's correspondence, at least that which we have seen and some memos by Higgs. Would you reproduce the Higgs stuff and send them back. I will very shortly send you everything we have produced. Check and see if Nancy told the clipping service to clip Freedom Democratic Party stuff. We got a letter from the chairman of the Colorado S. Dem. Party and he says two of the most populous counties, Denver and Adams, have passed resolutions in support of us which will be carried to the state convention July 18th. it was a sympathetic letter. I would like to see some of the stuff you prepared for the earlier mailings. I am trying to do up stuff on the right to vote. I think we have to concentrate on the political questions and forget the economic ones for a while. I think this is what the meeting in February was all about and I think that its decisions were basically correct. Bayard seems to want to push the economic issues and with good reason. They can never be satisfied and hence one never really gets a movement going. The only way to really get movement under way would be on the vote issue. Did I tell you

of the meeting we had with Bayard, King, Hill, Farmer, Randolph Miss Baker and myself. Randolph left before we got there and King showed up two and $\frac{1}{2}$ hours late. Nothing was decided except that Rustin said he could not coordinate it unless he was paid and unless the march had a (sit down) \$20,000 budget. He was talking of 25,000 people and that's about \$.75 a person. So where's the great coordination?

I'll close now. Try and call me every once in a while so I don't forget things. As you must know by now I am more of a verbalist than a writer. By the way, I am not making carbons of these letters so you have the only copies.

Watts

P.S. I hope the business with Mike got straightened out.