

LETTER RECEIVED FROM: GEORGE WINTER
DATE: 11 July 1964
FROM: Ruleville, Mississippi

It was a hot day. Another hot day in Mississippi. We piled out of the car into one of the streets in Drew. It was one of the Negro districts. Splitting up into groups of two, we went from door to door. Walking and talking to people. People afraid. Afraid to vote, to even try and register. People who want their freedom, who want to attend meetings of the Ruleville Freedom Movement. But people who are afraid to come out, afraid to take that first step towards Freedom. Why?...A 13 year old kid was beaten...beaten by the police...beaten almost to death. He was beaten because he supposedly swore at some white kids. This was only a few weeks ago. Last week another outbreak of violence occurred. Not by the police this time, just unidentified Whites. There is a long tradition of this...And the people in Drew, the Negro people aren't about to forget it. They won't forget, but....

THE FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY: Its three basic purposes.... to organize a political unity in the Negro community; to challenge the Mississippi Democratic Party by creating an almost parallel political structure, and by trying to take the seat of the Miss. Dem. Party away at the National Convention; to show the rest of the world and US that the Mississippi Negro wants to vote, become first class citizen, and be treated like human beings.

The work that we are doing now related to the FDP is Freedom registration, that is, we are registering people with the FDP to illustrate that the Negro wants to vote and would be able to vote in many of the other states. This is to gain outside support. Plus this will give the human basis (how many human beings represented) for the seat of the FDP instead of the MDP at the national convention. Plus this is the basis of beginning to form a political unity in the Negro community.

LITERATURE NEEDED: Could you send a Freedom Library for the Youth Group here in Ruleville. The more readable pocket books, a wide selection please, not just the more orthodox stuff.