

"Each One - Teach One"

COFO - HATTIESBURG

507 Mobile Street
Telephone (601) 582-9993

P. O. Box 961
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402

December 28, 1964

Dear Friends,

Well we knew the time would come and it has. The state is broke, winter is here and the canned pumpkin in the closet is running mighty low. Our operating budget has been cut from \$95 to \$10 per week. Project phones all over the coast have been disconnected, Hattiesburg got a final payment notice on our phone bill today, we owe Mrs. Woods three months rent -- and there's no money to pay those bills. We were all pooling our pay checks to pay project expenses but now SNO is so broke there are no checks to pool. Right now there are four dollars in the COFO bank account in Jackson. And because this is the movement and we always seem to do it this a way, we went broke just before the January 4th demonstration.

Over 1,000 people from the state were supposed to go to D.C. on the 4th to holler to the rooftops and pigeonhole congressmen and tell it on the top of the capitol mountain. The Congressional Challenge will be the major political push of the year and the move to unseat Colmer, Whitten, Abernathy, et al, will continue on into the summer. The demonstration on the 4th will be a focal point in terms of publicity and communications with congressmen and the Freedom Democratic Party has been trying to raise money for it with canvassing, church collections, fish fries and, in Hattiesburg, a benefit dance.

Last Sunday there was an FDP convention in Jackson and people were putting car parts together to get one good car to make the trip, so we don't know how were going to raise the money to send 1,000 people to Washington at an estimated cost of \$75 gas and expenses per car.

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ONE MAN - ONE VOTE

But then we didn't know how we were ever going to do a lot of things.
and theres some other news to report. New programs have started since you left.
Mrs. Johnnie Mae Walker, who broke bread and shared the suds with you this summer,
has started a citizen's committee to look into ways the federal government's programs
can help the people of Mississippi. The COFO ban on demonstrations has been lifted
and the MSU has started testing again. Last Saturday Bobby Plump and the gang
integrated the white section of the Sanger theatre, but were told there were "no
seats" at the Rebel. Demonstrations are also going on in Laurel and Natchez, and
it looks like they are slowly spreading across the state.

Once again the hang-up is money, because anybody who goes to jail now knows
there isn't a penny in Jackson to get them out. So if you can, send that check (or
better, wire it today) to Doug Smith, COFO-Hattiesburg, 507 Mobile St., Hattiesburg,
Mississippi. And if you can't send a check at least send a letter and let us know
how you are and what you're doing.

See you at Porter's.

Freedom,
The Hattiesburg Staff

S. K. [unclear]
Gracie Hawthorne
Phyllis Cunningham
Sheery Ann Elstley
Lynnea Mack
Doug Smith
Barbara Schwartzbaum
Joe Schwart
Mary Louise Crosby
Emma Jean Wilborn
Dick Kelly
Bobby Plump
Davy Owens