

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
8 1/2 Raymond St. NW  
Atlanta Georgia 30314

404-688-0331

February 2, 1965

Dear Colleague:

The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's Congressional Challenge is one of the most important events of the decade.

The MFDP, a grassroots organization composed of housewives, sharecroppers, and other Mississippi residents, is interrogating officials of the state of Mississippi in public, federally authorized hearings in an attempt to gather evidence for its challenge of the state's five seats in the House of Representatives.

Press coverage of the FDP's hearings has been negligible. Your interest is required to insure that all America knows what these hearings reveal.

So far:

- Negroes from Adams and Humphreys Counties have told of harrassments and terror they suffered after they tried to register to vote (Natchez: 1/29; Greenville: 1/30).
- A prominent member of the white supremacist Citizens Council testified that many state officials, including 25% of the state's legislators, are Council members, and that public tax money is used to help finance the Council (Jackson: 1/30).
- State Attorney General Joe Patterson admitted that the State of Mississippi would not investigate complaints by Negro citizens of voter discrimination (Jackson: 1/30).

The congressional challenge did not end January 4 with the seating of Mississippi's five regular Congressmen. The struggle by unrepresented Negro citizens of Mississippi to become full members of our democracy is continuing.

Future hearings are scheduled for:

- Wed. Feb. 3: Grand Jury Room, Federal Courthouse, Clarksdale; Rust College in Holly Springs; Shiloh Baptist Church, 1800 John Quincy Blvd in North Gulfport.
- Thurs. Feb. 4: Clarksdale; Holly Springs; Rm. 335, Federal Building, Greenville; also Vicksburg; Moss Point; McComb.
- Fri. Feb. 5: Greenville; McComb; St. Francis' Church, Hwy 82, Greenwood; also Philadelphia.
- Sat. Feb. 6: Greenville; McComb; Greenwood.
- Mon. Feb. 7: Greenwood; McComb.



(Other counties and dates not yet certain. All hearings begin at 9a.m.)

For further information, call the number above, or contact:

COMMUNICATIONS  
FDP  
1017 Lynch Street  
Jackson, Mississippi (601-352-9788)

Sincerely,

SNCC COMMUNICATIONS

enc: background on hearings  
Student Voice issue on Challenge

68-1510 Pam