

SUGGESTED ACTION FOR INCLUDING NEW ELECTIONS IN VOTING LEGISLATION

Since the new voting laws that the Congress is now considering is intended to allow all citizens who had been previously deprived of the right to vote, and since everyone now admits that hundreds of thousands of Negroes in the South have been kept from voting in past elections, we feel that as soon as these people become registered new elections should be held so that they can begin immediately to start voting. We feel that elections should be held for all positions, not just for Senators and Congressmen, but for Mayor, Sheriff, and all other elected positions.

At present the voting bill does not require that these new elections must be held. A group of organizations, SNCC, CORE, MFDP, and the Louisiana Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Citizens are working to see that it is included. Rep. Adam Clayton Powell of New York will very probably attempt to introduce such an amendment calling for New and Democratic elections six to nine months after federal registration of voters begins in an area.

In about two weeks the bill will be before Congress. It is important that we let Congressmen know that we want new elections to be held as soon as we are registered. It will be little use to write to the Southern Congressmen who are supposed to be representing us so we should write to Northern Congressmen who might be willing to support our call for new elections. The following is a list of Congressmen and Senators to whom we should write. It is important to organize campaigns, to send waves of letters to these Congressmen.

Senators

Sen. Jacob K. Javits
Sen. Paul H. Douglas
Sen. Thomas Kuchel
Sen. Clifford P. Case
Sen. Thomas J. Dodd
Sen. Robert F. Kennedy
Sen. Ernest Gruening

Representatives

Rep. John Lindsay
Rep. Edith Green
Rep. John Blatnick
Rep. James Resnick
Rep. William F. Ryan
Rep. Charles McMathins
Rep. Sylvie Conte
Rep. Adam Clayton Powell
Rep. George Brown
Rep. Don Edwards
Rep. Leonard Farbstein
Rep. Donald Fraser
Rep. Phillip Burton

The addresses of the Senators

Senate Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

The addresses of the Representatives

House Office Building
Washington 25, D.C.

These letters must arrive next week and the week after so if we are going to do this we must begin now. Here is a sample of the kind of letter being used in Louisiana. Similar campaigns are being started in the North but letters from the South from the people most concerned are more effective.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Congressman,

I am a resident of Louisiana and am writing to you because I do not feel that the Congressmen from my state really represent the wishes or needs of Negroes in the state. The reason for this is that the majority of Negro citizens here cannot vote. We hope that the new legislation will make it possible to vote, and that as soon as this is so new elections will be held. We feel that since most of us had no vote in any elections held up until now, we should be allowed to vote in new elections as soon as we are registered.

We urge you to write into the new law a provision for new and democratic elections within six to nine months after the federal registrars come.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,