

January 13, 1965

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The Parents Mississippi Freedom Association met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Owen, Pasadena, at 8 PM, Mr. Robert Hunn presided, and there were 15 members present.

Minutes of the December 9, 1964, meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Harold Johnson, Treasurer, reported a balance just prior to the meeting, of \$3,208.13, and gave the break-down of various funds for Operating Expenses, Bail Funds, and the Scholarship and Transportation Accounts. On motion by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mrs. Davidson and carried unanimously, the report was approved.

Secretary Adele Siegel read (1) a letter from Mr. Hal Light of the San Francisco parents group, who have now formed their own organization; (2) letter from Gwen Robinson, Project Director in Laurel, Miss., regarding sit-ins and arrests of COFO workers there; (3) reported resignation of Mrs. Sue Davidson as Ways & Means Chairman.

Mr. Edwin Wilson, Legal Chairman, reported (1) our parents group is now incorporated, Corporation Number being 43112; (2) in the opinion of the State Franchise Board, we will not have to file tax returns for amounts under \$25,000, unless changes in purpose occur; (3) local Federal offices gave no information, and he will have to write to the Treasury Dept. in Washington for a definite opinion. Mr. Wilson recommended purchase of a seal, and turned over numerous 'eds' regarding corporation materials and equipment, to the Budget Committee to study our needs and take action at the next meeting. It was suggested that we publicize the fact of our incorporation. Other area parent-groups could be regarded as chapters under our corporate association, and Mr. Wilson pointed out attending responsibilities. He would like to see one of our members meet with a representative of the San Francisco organization, which seems to be looking to our group for ideas and alliance. Mr. Wilson brought out the fact that any amount over \$25,000 would have to be reported to the State Franchise Board, and suggested consulting an accountant in connection with problems arising from inclusion of other 'chapters'. In order to create unity, Mr. Hunn suggested coordinating all interested organizations at a conference, such as the Center for Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, and asked Mr. Wilson to continue study, and make recommendations. Mr. Schwartz volunteered to serve as a coordinator on such a project, and Mrs. Martha Hard offered to visit the San Francisco group while in that area. (She reported being in touch with them regarding the Scholarship Program.)

Mr. Wilson asked that the \$15.00 he paid for incorporation fees, be transferred from the General Fund to the Bail Fund, rather than reimbursing him. This was unanimously approved by the group.

Mr. Johnson was directed to change the name on the bank account.

Mr. Wilson reported on his findings in the use of professional bonding companies. Due to their lack of interest, he felt it would be better to function as we did last summer in handling bail.

Mrs. Brill was asked to serve as temporary Ways & Means Chairman, replacing Mrs. Davidson.

Mr. Carstens offered to get a journalism student to help with publicity, in particular, the write-up on our incorporation. There was a hopeful note that Mrs. Judy Newman would be able to resume her work as Publicity Chairman before long.

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Mrs. Clara Harris announced 18 paid-up family memberships in the new organization. She plans to send out personal letters to the old members, written on the new stationery, in an effort to secure additional members. She also will continue as chairman of the April commemorative event, still in the early stages of planning.

Mr. Sidney Harris, Bail Chairman, reported a number of requests for bail from the SNCC office, which were refused since they did not involve workers from California. Later, \$100.00 bail was needed by and sent to Mrs. Davidson's daughter. Mr. Harris discussed ways to handle bail money, and asked that travellers checks be given him to hold on hand for this purpose. Adele Siegel moved, seconded by Mrs. Hard and carried, that Mr. Harris be given \$500.00, the travellers checks to be secured through Mr. Weiss, without charge. Mr. Harris urged that any recipient of bail money be expected to furnish official receipts. An information sheet was proposed for all members and persons involved in Mississippi, giving instructions, names and phone numbers to call for bail assistance.

Mrs. Siegel reported that Mrs. Bridgeforth had raised \$525.00 to cover shipment of food and clothing to Mississippi, and that this has been delivered.

Mrs. June Owen, Legislative Action Chairman, reported on the Fairness Resolution, regarding seating of the Democratic Party. Vote on the challenge will not come until around July 1st, and she emphasized that letters to our congressmen were still pertinent, and outlined various points to be stressed. She was asked to write out this information to be included in the next Newsletter. A motion was made by Mr. Henry Siegel, seconded by Mrs. Davidson and carried that Mrs. Owen be authorized to write letters in the name of this organization, regarding political support. *(But not to take the place of our individual letters.)*

Mrs. Martha Hard, Scholarship Program Chairman, reported continuing efforts of her committee. After discussion of certain opposition to the Scholarship plan, coming from persons outside our group, a vote of confidence was given Mrs. Hard and the Scholarship Program Committee, on motion by Mr. Edwin Wilson, seconded by Mr. Harold Johnson and carried unenimously. It was also decided that the questions should be discussed with Mr. Bob Moses, if possible to see him on his visit to Los Angeles next week.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting around Bob Moses, and Mrs. Siegel immediately contacted the Hollywood SNCC office to secure a possible date upon which to plan such a meeting - tentatively Jan. 21st. A dinner-and-program committee was formed as follows: Gabrielle Brill, Martha Hard, Marien Wilson, Adele Siegel, Arthur Carstens and Edwin Wilson. This committee will estimate costs, and members will be assessed accordingly.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Hunn

Dorothy Hunn, Recording Secretary