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Freedom 1964 X
Democratic

MISSISSIPPI

Freedom Democratic Party

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Washington, D. C. -- The racist, police state of Mississippi, what it is and how it effects the rights and liberties of all Americans, especially in the Negro ghettos of the North, will be the general theme of a series of public Freedom Rallies to be held on the Eastern Seaboard, from July 21 through August 6th.

The first meeting, Tuesday, July 21st, will be held in Washington, D. C., at the New Bethel Baptist Church, pastored by the Reverend Walter Fauntroy and located 4105 17th Street, NW. Other meetings are scheduled to be held in Baltimore, July 22, Cambridge, Md., July 23, Philadelphia, July 24, and Atlantic City, July 27th. Dates have not been finalized for meetings in Chester, Pa., and the New York City area.

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, the dynamic civil rights leader of Ruleville, Miss. who was fired from her sixteen-year-old job as a timekeeper on a delta cotton plantation when she attempted to register to vote in 1962, will keynote each mass meeting with first-hand reports of what is happening in Mississippi this summer, and will tell of her experiences as the first Negro woman Congressional candidate to run in Sunflower County, the home of the arch segregationist, Senator Eastland, and the birthplace of the White Citizens Council. Mrs. Hamer was one of four Negro candidates who qualified and ran in the Mississippi State Primary on June 2, 1964. She opposed Representative Jamie L. Whitten. The other three candidates were Mrs. Victoria Gray opposing Senator John Stennis, the Reverend John Cameron, opposing Representative William M. Colmer, and Mr. James Houston, opposing Representative John Bell Williams.

Miss Ella J. Baker, a long-time worker for human dignity, who is currently coordinating the Washington office of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, will be travelling with Mrs. Hamer. She will tell why the citizens of Mississippi organized the Freedom Democratic Party, and report on what is being done to have the delegation from the Freedom Democratic Party seated at the National Democratic Convention at Atlantic City, in place of the delegation from the Mississippi State Democratic Party, which is dominated by a coalition of the White Citizens Council and such state politicians as former Governor Ross Barnett. Judge Tom Brady, the father of the White Citizens Council, Senator Eastland, Governor Paul B. Johnson and others.