

MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE
PL/ST 24

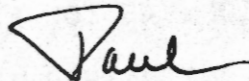
①

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1964

TO THE PRESIDENT:

Attached is a telegram from Martin Luther King urging
you to support the seating of the Mississippi Freedom
Democratic Party.


Paul Popple

Attachment

RECEIVED
SEP 1 1964
CENTRAL FILES

COPY
LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

The White House
Washington

AUG 24 AM 1 10

WA033 PD

ATLANTIC CITY NJER 23 712P

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

DEAR MR PRESIDENT: SINCE THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY BEGAN ITS FIGHT TO BE RECONGNIZED AS THE VOICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN MISSISSIPPI WE HAVE ASKED THAT YOU MAINTAIN A "BENEVOLENT NEUTRALITY" IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN US AND THE SO-CALLED "REGULAR" DELEGATION. AS YOU KNOW, THIS ISSUE IS NOT A ROUTINE POLITICAL ONE BUT RATHER INVOLVES A FUNDAMENTAL

MORAL QUESTION: A QUESTION WHICH GOES TO THE ROOTS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM AND TO OUR SYSTEM OF JUSTICE. THAT QUESTION IS WHETHER THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL STAND FOR FAIR POLITICAL REPRESENTATION, AGAINST VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION AND FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE DENIED THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN MISSISSIPPI.

IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THE CHARGED ATMOSPHERE OF THE CONVENTION HAS LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT ONLY YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE CLEAR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTYS POSITION ON THE BASIC ISSUES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. A GREAT NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR WISHES TO FOLLOW YOU IN HELPING

COPY
LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY

THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOMS DEMOCRATIC PARTYS CAUSE. INDEED,
THESE DELEGATES HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR THEIR INTENTION TO WAGE A
FIGHT FOR THE "MFDP" ON THE FLOOR OF THE CONVENTION -- IN ANY
EVENT. BECAUSE YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP AND WISDOM IN THE
NAME OF CIVIL RIGHTS AND IN THE NAME OF FUNDAMENTAL DEMOCRATIC
PRINCIPLES, WE URGE YOU TO JOIN WITH THESE DELEGATES IN SEATING
THE ONLY MISSISSIPPI PARTY CHOSEN DEMOCRATICALLY AND WHICH
IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE IN MISSISSIPPI - THE MISS-
ISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY
MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 24, 1964

MEMORANDUM
TO LEE WHITE:

I have sent the blue copy in
to the President.

Paul
Paul Popple

RECEIVED
OCT 21 1964
CENTRAL FILES

COPY

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON LIBRARY