



FANNIE LOU  
HAMER

ANNIE DEVINE



VICTORIA  
GRAY

**THE CONGRESSIONAL  
CHALLENGE**

## WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS?

The United States Congress is a meeting of people chosen from all over the United States. These people meet in Washington to make the laws of the United States.

Congress makes laws which say how much cotton a farmer can crop and how much he should be paid for his cotton.

Congress made the Civil Rights law.

Congress says how much money the government in Washington gives to Mississippi.

Congress could make laws to give us good schools.

Congress could make laws to say that people who chop and pick cotton should make more money.

Congress could make laws to say that we can all get food and clothing from welfare when we need them.

Congress could make laws to make it easy for everyone -- black and white -- to vote in Mississippi.

## WHY DOESN'T THE CONGRESS DO THE THINGS WE WANT?

Congress does not do the things we want because we do not have anyone in Congress to speak for us.

Jamie Whitten, John Bell Williams, Tom Abernathy, Prentiss Walker and William Colmer were chosen November 4th to go to Congress from Mississippi. We did not help choose them. We were not allowed to vote on November 4th. And so the men elected November 4th cannot speak for us. They do not know what we want.

## WHOM DO WE WANT IN CONGRESS?

We want someone in Congress who will say what we want done.

Many of us voted in a FREEDOM VOTE October 30th and 31st, November 1st and 2nd, for our representatives in Congress. In the FREEDOM VOTE we chose Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer from Ruleville, Mrs. Annie Devine from Canton and Mrs. Victoria Gray from Hattiesburg to go to Congress to speak for us.

Everyone could vote in the FREEDOM VOTE. So Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray can speak for us and all the people in Mississippi.

Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray are members of the FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY. The FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY is made up of people in Mississippi who want to vote and choose their representatives.

#### WHAT IS THE CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGE?

Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray are going to Washington. They are going to say that they should be allowed to sit in Congress and talk about our problems.

Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray will have help from many people. We have friends in Congress who will tell other members of Congress on January 4th that the men chosen in Mississippi in the regular election should not be allowed to sit in Congress.

And lawyers will come to Mississippi after Congress opens. They will want us to tell why we can't vote in Mississippi. And they will want us to tell how the Congressmen from Mississippi don't do the things we want.

The lawyers will take these things back to Congress. They will tell Congress what things are like in Mississippi. They will ask Congress to let Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray sit in Congress as our representatives.

Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray will also tell people in Congress and all over the United States what things are like in Mississippi. They will open an office in Washington, and they will tell everybody that they are the Congresswomen from Mississippi.

#### WHAT MUST WE DO HERE IN MISSISSIPPI?

We must make the Freedom Democratic Party strong in Mississippi. We must go to precinct meetings, county meetings, and the state meeting December 20th in Jackson and say what we want the Freedom Democratic Party to do.

We must help the lawyers when they come to Mississippi. We must tell them how hard it is to vote in Mississippi. And we must tell them that we don't want the men elected in the regular election to represent us. We must tell them that we want

Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray to speak for us in Congress.

We must be ready to go to Washington January 4th.  
We must go to Congress when it opens January 4th, and tell the country that we want Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray to be our representatives in Congress.

We must let Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray know what we want. We should send letters and petitions to Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray in Washington, and we should visit them there. We should tell them what is happening in Mississippi and ask them to help us. We should tell them what we want them to say in Congress. We should tell them about welfare, cotton allotments, jobs and schools.

We should tell everybody in America that we want Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray in Congress. We should write to newspapers and congressmen in Mississippi and other states and tell them about the Freedom Democratic Party and about the Congressional Challenge. We should go to other states and speak about Mrs. Hamer, Mrs. Devine and Mrs. Gray. We should let all the country know that we want our own representatives in Congress.

WRITE TO MRS. HAMER, MRS. DEVINE AND MRS. GRAY AT:

FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
1353 "U" Street  
Washington, D. C.