

EXECUTIVE MEETING
ALABAMA DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE, INC.
March 2, 1968

Members Present:

Rufus A. Lewis, Chairman
O. F. Frazier
Peter Hall
R. D. Jones
C. C. Gomillion
Arthur Shores
Wilbur Hollins
Mrs. Bernice Johnson
Mrs. Beulah C. Johnson

Representative of AIDP
David Vann, Chairman

The Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc.'s Executive Committee went into Executive Session at 10:15 A.M. on the above date and place with the Chairman, Rufus A. Lewis, presiding. The Chairman called for the minutes of the previous meeting and unfortunately, the Secretary, Mrs. Johnson, did not have the minutes with her. Mr. O. F. Frazier who had also taken minutes, was asked to read the minutes he had. This was done but was inadequate for our business. At this point Attorney Peter Hall went on record stressing the dire need for accurate minutes at all times so that we may know exactly what and who and when any action was taken or decision reached.

The Chairman asked the secretary to get a bound book to keep the minutes in.

Peter Hall suggested that we get minutes of previous meeting in order for acceptance or rejection. Peter Hall moved and C.G. Gomillion seconded a motion that the Chairman, Rufus Lewis be permitted to get what secretarial help needed in Montgomery. The motion was carried by the Executive Committee.

The meeting was opened for strategy discussion.

Peter Hall---- There is a great need for getting committees ready and in working order.

Some discussion on Qualification Committee which was made up of the following: O. F. Frazier, Arthur Shores, Isom Clemmons and Rufus Lewis. At present the work of the qualification committee is over. We do have a need for Convention, Regional and District organization. Our most important thing to do now is register and qualify people so they can vote, get them to the polls when voting time comes and do sell them on voting for democratic nominees for National Office. Support people who win in Democratic Primary. Must either work with party or outside of party. We want the Democratic Party to win.

Rufus Lewis----- We want a mixed group of persons organizing districts where possible. But we must get district leaders or organization to make recommendations for persons to be recommended to the District Organization.

R. D. Jones----Mr. Jones is from District 1, Monroeville and takes in

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Mobile.) Mr. Jones said he would rather not make any recommendation. Mr. Lewis asked Mr. Jones to please contact Isom Clemons and try to have someone for organization.

O.F.F. Frazier----- Mr. Frazier said he would get information in later.

Peter Hall suggested that we ask David Vann when we need the names for organizational purposes given to Vann.

Peter Hall read article from Birmingham Post of March 2, 1968 giving names of those who had been involved in being elected to Electors Slate.

Complete slate: No. 1 Place-- Ben F. Ray, B'ham. Atty., Former Chairman of Executive Committee
 " 2 " -- Charles A. Bentley, Jr. President Student Body at Auburn University
 " 3 " -- Lafayette Patterson, Weaver, Alabama Former Congressman from an old district, 1928-32. Just inside Calhoun County. Uncle of John Patterson; brother of assassinated Patterson of Phenix City
 " 4 " -- Roy D. McCord - Old time loyal democrat, Gadsden, Alabama attorney.
 " 5 " -- Dot Little (Mrs.) Scott Little) Huntsville, President Democrat Women's Club
 " 6 " -- Coleman A. Lollar West Jefferson Father coal miner Secretary-treasurer University of Alabama Student Body.
 " 7 " -- Isom Clemons, President Longshoreman's Union, Mobile, Alabama
 " 8 " -- James McCarthy Reed Miles College Student
 " 9 " -- J. E. Brantley, Former Mayor of Banks in Pike County Member of Railroad trainmen Is a Rail Road Conductor Elected Democrat Elector in 1952 -Adlai Stevenson, 1956, Adlai Stevenson, 1960 John F. Kennedy
 " 10 " -- Joe L. Reed Alabama A.S.T.A. Executive Secretary

Mr. Vann said this group could only run for AIDP

The agenda for meeting scheduled for March 9 was discussed.

David Vann-- Where we are

Where do we go? Want names of individuals for district organization.

Strategy should be tailored to situations as they develop. We must

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keep flexible. Mr. Vann said he was giving a speech Monday. In his speech he said he intended to show how voters were misused, tricked, abused, etc. He simply stated this as the type of speech he was planning to make. There is a possibility that C.W. may mess up slate of electors--all kinds of strange people are involved.)

Make very certain that AIDP is not in the Primary but make very sure that Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc. is in and be sure that we do three things:

1. Organization at Precinct level
2. Education at Precinct level
3. Raise finance at Precinct level

Alabama Democratic Conference Inc. will be stressing work for Primary--

Alabama Independent Democratic Party will remain quiet for Primary.

Organization in Precinct, County and District most important.

Lewis:-- What can be expected from AIDP ?

Vann:-- Get people working to get white and Negroes working to learn the donkey represents the slate which will support the National Democratic Party

Hall:-- We need precinct organization

Vann:-- He is going to try to get out basic Precinct Manual.

Gomillion:-- At this point my feeling is that it would be better not to attempt to mis Negroes and whites.

Lewis:-- District leaders are asked to get organizational workers ready for purpose of working with AID. Keeping in mind:
Organization
Fund Raising
Registration

Get any and everybody registered possible. Four from each district to be a part of overall organizational group. Power to expand-- broad based.

Vann:-- Interest should be to create a new organization which would try to coordinate existing groups with AIDP.

Shores:-- We could have representation after Thursday.

Vann:-- Would like to have organization meeting March 9.

Gomillion:-- I believe I can get representatives from outlying counties around Macon. I do not see need for new group in Macon.

Hall:-- We are not running others

Will be named by Convention. No candidates in primary, only thing AID is running is electors. If confused on essential issues we get nowhere.

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Lewis:-- on Congressional organization- We must get this work done so districts will be organized.

C.F. Frazier- We would need agenda for our Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc. meeting so we can prepare for our State meeting.

It was suggested that Mrs. Pauline Bass and Mr. Ingersoll of Phenix City be contacted as possible workers in that district.

Gomillion:- None of Alabama Democratic Conference, Inc. members except the Chairman should make statements of what we would do or not do.

Hall:- Stated that the only way he sees we could work with Huntsville group is for them to give up their slate and work with us without following their policies and procedures.

Read reprint from Huntsville paper, Huntsville Times, February 27, 1968, By Jim Wooten, Times staff writer. It was read for information only. No comments.

Hall introduced J. Mason Davis, Politician of Birmingham.

Mrs. Berneice Johnson made a very good statement relative to our being careful and not doing anything that would in any way alienate the masses whom we need badly. Any overt action on our part directed at those with whom we certainly may not agree, but followers in many instances with the masses with them, we must be careful of our behavior unless we drive these whom we would like to win further into our opponent's camp.

The Chairman asked that the list be gotten in to him right away.

Adjourned 12:00 P.M.

Beulah C. Johnson, Secretary

Rufus A. Lewis, Chairman

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STATE CONFERENCE - ALABAMA STATE COLLEGE

April 6, 1968

There will be six regional conferences as follows: Barbour County, Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa. Local associations have been assigned to meet on the following dates:

BARBOUR COUNTY: (To be Announced)

Barbour-(Eufaula)
Bullock
Chambers-(Lanett)
Coffee-(Enterprise, Elba, Sheffield)
Dale-(Ozark)
Geneva
Henry
Houston-(Dothan)
Lee-(Opelika, Auburn)
Macon-(Tuskegee Institute)
Randolph
Russell-(Phenix City)
Tallapoosa -(Alexander City)

BIRMINGHAM: May 4

Blount-(Oneonta)
Calhoun-(Anniston, Jacksonville, Piedmont)
Etowah-(Attalla, Gadsden)
Jefferson-(Birmingham, Bessemer, Fairfield, Tarrant)
St. Clair
Talladega-(Sylacauga, Talladega, Childersburg)

HUNTSVILLE: April 27

Cherokee
Colbert-(Tuscumbia, Muscle Shoals)
Cullman
DeKalb
Franklin-(Russellville)
Jackson-(Scottsboro)
Lauderdale-(Florence)
Lawrence
Limestone-(Athens)
Madison-(Huntsville)
Marion
Marshall
Morgan-(Decatur)
Winston

MOBILE: April 20

Baldwin
Choctaw

MOBILE (Continued)

Clarke-(Thomasville)
Conecuh-(Evergreen)
Escambia-(Atmore, Brewton)
Mobile
Monroe
Washington
Wilcox

MONTGOMERY: May 11

Autauga
Butler
Chilton
Clay
Cleburne
Coosa
Covington-(Andalusia, Florala, Opp)
Crenshaw
Elmore-(Tallassee)
Lowndes
Montgomery
Pike-(Troy)
Shelby

TUSCALOOSA: April 13

Bibb
Dallas-(Selma)
Fayette
Greene
Hale
Lamar
Marengo-(Demopolis, Linden)
Perry-(Marion)
Pickens
Sumter-(Livingston)
Tuscaloosa-(Tuscaloosa City)
Walker

*Parenthesis indicates the cities included in specified areas.

(See Reverse Side)