Ralliers Call For Action On South's Racial Crisis

By Mimi Kahal

"I am from Mississippi, and I am very angry today because Congress keeps on legislating and legislating and not enforcing. I just don't know what Johnson means by a Great Society when he does nothing about cleaning up Congress."

Mrs. Annie Devine of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party spoke from the Sundial on Thursday, March 18, in a forceful voice often cracked by emotion. Students stood 12 deep around the Sundial for an hour to hear Mrs. Devine and other civil rights leaders rail against Congress for "failing to interpret the desires and deep feelings" of the Southern Negro.

Mrs. Devine declared, "Congressmen have a right to hear what the Mississippi challenge is all about. Congressmen have a right to hear why people are not registered to vote and what happened to those who tried to register."

"The Justice Department has been in Alabama since 1957, but they have only done something when the FDP organized to challenge the power of Sheriff Clark," Mr. Strictland said.

Another spokesman, Rabbi Albert Friedlander, who was leaving for Selma that night, said that he was "embarrassed because there hasn't been more concern at Columbia."

This sentiment was reiterated by Dr. Harold Stahmer, professor of religon at Columbia and Barnard, recently returned frm Selma. Dr. Stahmer suggested that his colleagues replace their slogan "Publish or perish" with "Speak or perish."

The Rev. Henry Malcolm and CU Assistant Chaplain John Cannon also spoke at the rally sponsored by the Friends of SNCC and the Protestant Office.

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register."

She explained, "The FDP is the baby of SNCC and CORE. We're proud of it and we're going to see that the people of this country hear the cries of this baby. If they had been heard at the Atlantic City convention, the Selma incident would never have happened."

The FDP was organized, Mrs. Devine said, because Negroes could not participate in the regular Mississippi system. As a result they decided to go into each county and organize on the precinct level under the auspices of the FDP. Mrs. Devine also said their attempts to run for Congress were repeatedly frustrated by the Secretary of State in Mississippi.

"The Negroes have been denied the right to have their name on the ballot. They didn't send the Mississippi and Alabama Congressmen there; Selma proved it. These men have no right to sit in Congress if they weren't sent there by the people."

William Strictland of the Northern Student Movement followed Mrs. Devine and declared that the FDP is undermining the security of the white racists' power base.