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05 April 2021
Podcast Overview and Sources

Overview

With the intention of celebrating Fannie Lou Hamer for the woman, leader, organizer, and advocate that she was, I begin with a montage of voices from around Lafayette all answering the question “Do you know who Fannie Lou Hamer is?”, only to be followed by a chorus of “no”s and “who?”s. I position this intentionally, the montage serves as a very tangible representation of the overwhelming lack of knowledge that exists about Hamer. I want my listeners to understand that systems have *intentionally* worked to leave her out of the narrative, but that she actually deserves a prominent place as an example of Black excellence and a model for future generations.

Briefly covering the logistics of the Freedom Farm Cooperative (FFC), I incorporate some quotes from literature to discuss the impacts the FFC had on the community of Sunflower County, Mississippi. Most of Hamer’s legacy lives in the realm of voter advocacy and her work with agricultural resiliency and sustainability is mentioned even more rarely. As such, I wanted this podcast to highlight her work with the FFC and her role as a community organizer.

At that point, I switch to discussing the different facets of Hamer’s identity that make her such a strong and effective leader. Once again using lines from literature in addition to a snippet of one of her testimonies, I work to provide a holistic picture of Fannie Lou Hamer. Allowing my listeners to hear the power of Hamer’s voice will help them further understand the truly incredible person she was.

I round off the podcast with a list of some (hopefully) thought-provoking questions for my listeners to ponder as they go about their day. I do this not only because I didn’t feel there was enough time in the podcast to do justice to just who Hamer was, but also because I don’t

want my listeners to stop thinking about Hamer's life and legacy when the podcast ends—rather, I want them to go into the rest of their day thinking about other narratives that have intentionally been erased and where we might see the impacts of leaders and organizers like Hamer in our everyday activities.

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Complementary Media Sources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rtOihCcLkE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3VcGKv9Cfw>

<https://www.cc.com/video/aonaut/the-daily-show-with-trevor-noah-ta-nehisi-coates-america-s-mass-incarceration-problem>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agBzy3ATja0>