

such shitty rhetoric) than to have my conscience pruned. So ask the poor minister if he would have preferred to march and been beaten by the troopers and at least provoked some nation-wide indignation than to come to Selma and be sold out and get the shit kicked out of him in downtown Selma. I think it makes a difference if you are into this kind of masochism anyhow.

march 11, 1965

Bennis

Dear Phil,

Enclosed is a piece on the Baltimore War on Poverty in the SDS Bulletin. They come to the SNCC office from time to time so I will clip anything interesting (not that this is especially interesting) and send it on.

I also plan to enclose in this letter a photostat of a letter from "Edgar". If I hadn't not gotten your last letter I would suggest that it would be a fitting p.s. for the WRO piece (which was EXCELLENT). But I too feel that Cahn is basically a very decent guy who is trying damn hard to do a good job in a stinking situation. He had told Wendy about his speechwriting chores when she was in Washington last month. His wife is also a very fine person. She headed up the New Haven project (I think a Ford Foundation deal) and if I am not mistaken I believe she quit out of disgust with the whole operation. In a way Cahn reminds me of Cole, in the position that Cole used to find himself in Faculty meetings of Boalt Hall Law professors. I once wrote Cole that I appreciated his efforts in getting the President of the State Bar to read my letters (in the summer of '63) and went on to tell him that he was one of my few "respectable" friends. He replied on how relative things were as on the Boalt faculty he is considered a bit to the left of Mau. And this is where Cahn must come off looking in the ECOPACT office. Hey didn't you like ECODUPE?

I will also plan to enclose two news clips if I get a chance to get them photocopies (not a very easy thing to do around here). One is beautiful in the pompous piety of the Coroner's statement. Without knowing the facts I have very little doubt that the mother was probably on Welfare, but was cut off after the birth of an illegit child (the 2 month old one). If it isn't true in this particular case it's true in thousands of others. The other clip is written by the guy I mentioned in my last newsletter who came to interview CB. I guess we weren't too subtle in how we felt. "the associates" and "other Negro leaders" referred to in the article is me.

If you can get me an an carbon of the letter Ely writes to Cahn, Katzenbach, and the New Rep I'd appreciate it. I have read her original letter to Cahn about 3 times now and each time I'm amazed by the quality of expression in it.

King in Selma is causing a lot of dissention in the ranks. Local Negroes are hip to the obvious sell out with the injunction and the "march" by Martin (which he conveniently turned around). He has lost a lot of face around here, and probably elsewhere and it will be hard to regain. I'll write more of this in the N/L. SNCC was dead against the idiotic march but at the last minute agreed to go along with it - sent 50 staff from Miss. who got there too late. Meanwhile Martin doesn't show, nor do any SCLC people (who had been arguing for this for three years now) and the march is led by Lewis and Hosea Williams (SCLC - Savannah). Slater talked to Hosea who was furious at the sell out. Now this poor bastard from Boston is going to die - having his brains stoved in coming out of a restaurant - and Martin, prior to turning around, is quoted: "I would rather be felled on the highway (or some

such shitty rhetoric) than to ~~me~~ have my conscience brutalized". So ask the poor minister if he would have preferred to march and been beaten by the troopers and at least provoked some nation-wide indignation than to come to Selma and be sold out and get the shit kicked out of him in a downtown restaurant. I think it makes a difference if you are into this kind of masochism anyhow.

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