

THE PERSON WHO INFLUENCED ME MOST

The person who influenced me the most was Mr. Robert Parish Moses. A well-educated man from New York City, this man was a teacher making a great deal of money. He heard about the problems going on in the South, and Greenwood, Mississippi, so he came into Leflore County to work on voter registration. I was proud to see a man. I really mean a man who would stand up for his rights and his people's rights. That is what Bob Moses did. What really influenced me the most is that we had a leader in Greenwood who I could follow for right, because that is what we really needed.

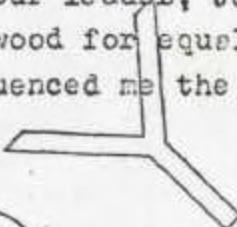
I heard and read about Mr. Moses, so I wanted to get a chance to talk to him. I did. He told me that the most important thing now is education and becoming a first-class citizen, in the state of Mississippi. I enjoyed what he said and asked him if I could work with SNCC and he said, "yes." I invited him to my house to talk to my mother and he c. se. She agreed with him. I respect him and have tried to do some of the things that he asked me to do. Bob Moses has taught me things that I didn't know, because he is/one who got me really serious about freedom.

Most of the Negroes of Leflore and throughout the state respect Bob Moses and I think everyone should respect him because we have a reason to. He has been beaten for us and nearly lost his life along with some other workers. Bob Moses has taught me things that I didn't know, because he is the one who got me really serious about freedom.

When I read that Bob Moses left his job to come to the South and help make progress, which had to be done 100 years ago when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed, I knew if we could get more men like Bob Moses into Greenwood our problems would soon be over

with. Bob Moses will always have someone to think about and stand up for freedom and equal rights until the end.

And the reason that I like him is that he is a man and a very nice person to talk with and give you full understanding of freedom. If he and the other workers hadn't come into Greenwood, we would be the same Uncle Toms - afraid to walk and talk for our rights, to white people. Bob Moses has sent me places where I had in mind but was not able to go. He told me about people who I didn't know anything about, so I learned a great deal from Bob and the people. I can say that I will go down on my knees in prayer for him and our leader, John Lewis and James Forman who work hard in Greenwood for equal rights and freedom, so this is the person who influenced me the most in my life - Mr. Robert Parish Moses



-June Elizabeth Johnson  
317 Noel Street  
Greenwood, Mississippi

COOPER