

New York, New York

June 7, 1959

Dear Branch Officer:

At this writing I am here attending a meeting of the National Board of Directors NAACP. We are working to clear the way for the greatest convention in the fifty (50) year history of the NAACP. The convention, which convenes next month, July 12-19, is one of the most important conventions of the day. There are serious matters which could reverse our trend of progress if we default at this time.

Mr. Robert Williams, suspended president of the Union County, North Carolina Branch NAACP, Monroe, North Carolina, has set off a wave of criticism by his statement that "we meet violence with violence". The position taken by the National Board of Directors on this explosive issue had to be indicative of our policy in past years which has been a non-violent approach. We had to sustain Mr. Roy Wilkins' action in suspending Mr. Williams as president of the Union county branch NAACP. If we had failed to do this we would have lowered the NAACP to the same level of the KKK and the WCC. We must safeguard our dignity and strength.

I am here in New York at my own expense as I was called upon to give aid and support to the board in solving this matter.

We wish to make this clear and it was spelled out in our written opinion that "we, the NAACP has never condoned mob violence, but it firmly supports the right of Negroes individually and collectively to defend their person, their homes and their property from attack". This principle has always been the policy of the NAACP.

Please do not underestimate the importance of sending delegates to the National Convention NAACP in New York City July 13-19. We must improve our leadership by attending the workshops at the convention and become better informed on the policies and functions of the organization. We need as many voting delegates as possible as we will have to continue to keep the NAACP clear of communists who will try to infiltrate our organization. If you do not have money in your treasury to send delegates please put on special projects and raise monies for this cause.

If I had my greatest wish or the things I wish for most, it would not be richness for myself nor financial wealth for my family. It would not be prestige nor popularity for myself nor my family. My deepest and most sincere wish is for my people to wake up to realities and rise to a point of responsibility. There is no doubt that great sacrifices have been made but our gain as a race in the past fifty (50) years more than compensates for what we have given in time, money and human sacrifice.

We must make up our minds as individuals that we cannot stand still and win the battle for freedom. If I may refer to my case of having been arrested here and fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) (Case is now on appeal). Basically I am not being persecuted for making pictures near the school which is mine as a tax payer. The real issue in point is to make me bow down at the feet of W.A. Reed, Jr., principal of the T.J. Harris Junior College. His record of open and wilful immorality forced upon others, and his record of exploitation of children and their parents speaks for itself. We can never stoop and bow to anyone who uses his position to brainwash and enslave our helpless children. Our school system here at the T.J. Harris Jr. College, is one of the worst in the nation. We cannot excuse any member of our race who uses his position to re-heap racial injustice upon his own race. If this is done for money, remember the biblical version of this, "The love of money is the roots of evil". No man's job is worth the enslavement of one little child. We must give our children a chance. Some people who have Master degrees are "masters of deceit". They use their degrees to cheat other Negroes.

Finally my arrest and the other drastic means of sufferage and intimidation brought against me recently is intended to force me to back down or leave the state. I have declared myself again and again on this, Freedom, Justice and Equality must be won in Mississippi. This is the battleground where I have chosen to take my stand and I will not be a quitter.

May I depend on you who have done and who are doing to do more. Go out and get memberships; lets put more Negroes' names on our books as registered voters.

Excerpts from address of John H. Johnson, publisher of Jet-Ebony-Tan and Hue, made at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 "Negroes cannot wscape their racial identity, so it is their responsibility to create a new image of what a Negro is . . . a good image. The prospect of individual emancipation are a fool's dream. There are no special Negroes. We are all in the same pot of stew, it is the responsibility of the self-respecting man to protest (bigotry or discrimination). There is no place in today's world for those who sign nothing, say nothing, resist nothing, pledge nothing. The end results is certain to be nothing".

Sincerely yours for Freedom,
 Mississippi State Conference NAACP



C.R. Darden, President
 National Board of Directors Member