

YWCA

National Student Young Women's Christian Association of the U. S. A.

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June 21, 1961

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Dear Tim:

First I should like to express appreciation for what you did to secure an appointment for the Freedom Riders Coordinating Committee with Attorney General Robert Kennedy. I heard that the meeting was not particularly fruitful in terms of resolving the very pointed differences of opinion that exist between Mr. Kennedy and the Coordinating Committee. However, I hope that the meeting provided a learning experience for the students that were involved at least and I am confident that the exchange of opinions between the Attorney General and the Committee was helpful. I have not heard the details (since Charles Sherrod remained in the Washington-Baltimore area over the week-end and will not return to Atlanta until after a meeting of the Coordinating Committee which will be held, I gather, in New York City, Monday, June 19.)

I would like to have an opportunity to talk with you at some length regarding the Seminar for student leaders to be held in Nashville in August and also regarding your proposals for an all out effort in the area of voter registration. I think there are some other sources from which student support can be secured and I also believe that the October SNCC conference can be "guided" into understanding the necessity for the kind of program that you proposed. At the Louisville meeting I pushed for the holding of both the SNCC fall conference and the larger student gathering on voter registration because I did not see the need of one meeting cancelling out the other. Also it seemed rather obvious that there was a growing feeling of vested interest in having the SNCC meeting and this, I believe, was a major factor in producing the kind of negative reactions to your proposal that came from some of the students present. However, I feel confident that greater support for the idea can be cultivated among the SNCC leaders. I hope this is not just wishful thinking but I find it necessary to believe in the possibility of change even though it comes slowly.



June 21, 1961

Listed below are the names and limited addresses of persons I mentioned in connection with the proposed voter registration drive in Mississippi:

- * Mr. Amzie Moore, 614 Chrisman Avenue, Cleveland, Mississippi
(Person around whom the project would apparently revolve)
- * Mr. Robert Moses, Teacher of Mathematics, Horace Mann High School
231 West 246 Street, New York City
(Bob Moses had indicated that he would be in Atlanta around the middle of June but he has not shown up as yet. He said that he could receive his mail through the school address.)

I have names of two persons who have already demonstrated their interest in voter registration in Fayette and Haywood Counties, but I do not have with me their home addresses. They are as follows:

- * Mr. Allen Yancey, Jr., Room 225 V, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama
- * Mr. C. T. Boyd, Haywood County Civic Association

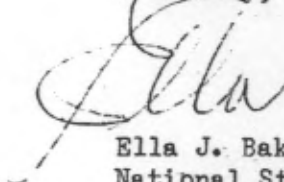
Mr. Yancey was dismissed as principal in Fayette County because of his active support of the Fayette County Welfare Association's program. He is a very intelligent young man and was taking some advance work at Tuskegee this winter and may still be there. If not, he could be reached through Mr. Mac Ferren's Grocery Store, Route 4, Summerville, Tennessee or Mr. John Lewis, Route 4, Box 25, Summerville, Tennessee.

Mr. Boyd is an exceedingly knowledgeable and courageous young man who holds his Master's Degree from an Eastern school and while he is still teaching in Tennessee, lost his job in Haywood County because of his leadership in the voter registration program there. I may be able to find their exact addresses by tomorrow but if not this gives you some lead. There are other persons in the Southern area who have been involved with voter registration whom you may or may not know; and if you are interested in a longer list of such names I would be able to send them to you when I return to the office on or about July 10.

I have just read your proposal or the prospectus for the Nashville Seminar and noted that the YWCA was suggested as one of the agencies from which the Advisory Committee for the Seminar would be selected. Since we did not get a chance to spell this out I should appreciate knowing what you have in mind as soon as you can find time to write. I expect to send a letter to the Field Foundation in support of the new request not later than Friday and of course will send you a copy.

Keep up the good work and don't get discouraged if those with whom you have to deal cannot move ahead as fast as you chart the course. Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,



Ella J. Baker
National Student YWCA Staff
Southern Region