

March 27, 1962

Samuel W. Koenigsberg, Esq.  
60 Park Place  
Newark 2, New Jersey

Re: Mississippi, The Lack of Counsel for Those Involved In Racial  
Controversy and for Negroes in General

Dear Mr. Koenigsberg:

Pardon the delay in answering your letter-memo of November 24, 1961. The whole of this Sunday has been spent working on replies to communications touching on, or arising out, of the Guild Aid to Attorneys of the South (G.A.A.S.), a special committee directing its attention to the lack of representation of those who are Negroes and/or involved in racial controversy in the South,

In spite of news stories to the contrary, the group doing the most meaningful work in Mississippi as of this date is the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Ben Dreyfus, Guild President, has recently undertaken to encourage the American and National Bar Associations to do something about a particular problem of injustice in connection with the arrest of C.O.R.E. and S.N.C.C. field secretaries in Baton Rouge, La. Soon you--along with the entire membership of the Guild--will receive more specific information about a Guild solution to the problem of legal representation in the South.

Your memorandum on the Mississippi situation, and the method of getting an outside attorney into a federal court where the plaintiff has already filed an integration suit, will be put into use at an annual conference of SNCC being held in Atlanta on April 27, 1962. Some work on soliciting white attorneys for involvement in racially controversial matters had already been done by one Bob Zellender in connection with his arrest in Mississippi. He is a white field secretary for SNCC sponsored by a grant from the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF). Bob will be at that conference and Ernie Goodman, Vic Rabinowitz, Jim Foreman and I will get off in a corner and discuss what is to be done.

A particular concern now exists about the inability of out of state attorneys to appear without local counsel in the state and federal courts of Mississippi for two reasons: (1) I am told by Bill Kunstler of New York that with or without local counsel in association, Jackson, Miss, has taken the position of no out-of-state counsel "period" in the Freedom Riders' trials. (2) Immediate habeas corpus proceedings should be commenced to get one Brenda Travis out of the juvenile home where several months ago--without legal representation she was sentenced to serve one year.