

March 29, 1965

Dear Mr. DeVitt,

Thank you for your letter of March 12.

We should like to take this opportunity to respond to some of your arguments in support of your decision to move to Selma. While we recognize that water, wood and transportation are essential to the operation of a pulp mill, we find it hard to believe that Selma is the only satisfactory site, in view of the vast timber resources, the rapidly expanding highway system and the many rivers of the Southeast.

However great is the interest of your stockholders in competing in the Southern pulp market, we wonder if they consider their interests well served by your tacit support of a racist government whose policies constitute a major obstacle to the solution of the area's economic problems.

As long as men like Wallace rule in the South the chain of violence and defiance of the Constitution which you claim to deplore will continue. As to your promise of fair employment policies -- we could hardly expect less, for that is required by law.

Governor Wallace and his representatives have obligated the State to exempt your operations in Selma from State and local taxes and to finance the construction of your plant. We feel that the governor's present policies will prevent the contract between you and the State from serving the interests of the people he presumes to represent. The moneys which would build your plant were in part collected from people who have no say in their disposition. And the funds which the agreement allows you to keep from the tax revenues could better be used for community improvement.

Again, we demand that you either reverse your decision to move to Selma, or exert all the pressure available to you to change the governor's policies.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Lewis

John H. Lewis
Chairman of the Student Nonviolent
Coordinating Committee