

April 26, 1965

MEMORANDUM To: Friends of SNCC

From: Betty Garman

HAMMERMILL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING MAY 11 9:30 am ERIE, PA.

Hammermill will hold a stockholders meeting in a few weeks. This gives us another opportunity to push for relocation of the \$35 million plant.

We are asking that demonstrations be organized at major "target" points on that day, i.e. the Hammermill office in New York, the Hammermill plant in Ohio, the Hammermill office in Pittsburgh and any other place where the demonstration can be focused strategically -- the New York Stock Exchange; cities where a great deal of Hammermill paper is used and so forth.

Other groups are encouraged to solicit telegrams and letters -- "An open letter to the Hammermill Stockholders" -- which will arrive in the President's office by Tuesday, May 11. (President is John H. Devitt, 5275 Wolf Road, Erie, Pa.)

Also enclosed is a copy of a research booklet done by SCLC on the Alabama boycott. Keep the information for reference and use the brand name and company listings in whatever way you can in your area. At this point top priority organizing is recruitment for the Washington lobby -- but local papers, for example, might take a press release from your office which announces the names of firms in your city with Alabama plants.

Additional copies of the booklet are available.

DEMONSTRATIONS ON FREE ELECTIONS

At the Easter weekend student conference in Washington, it was decided that there would be a call for coordinated national demonstrations around the issue of free elections during the week of May 9-May 16. Each group should start working now to plan rallies, protest marches, demonstrations, and other programs for that week which raise the issue of free and new elections -- and which point clearly to the need for a new election provision in the voting bill.

Work with your area campuses on this -- since the focus will be mainly student demonstrations around the country. But, local political groups, democratic clubs, and so forth should be mobilized during this week, too, to make new elections a NATIONAL ISSUE AND A NATIONAL CONCERN.

MORE ON HAMMERMILL

Hammermill stock recently returned to its pre-March level. It looks as if the trend of the stock value is connected in some way to the activity the civil rights groups have undertaken to keep their plant out of Selma. Here is a general picture: The stock started falling on March 15. (note that all the "g falls" were gradual but that Hammermill stock has risen steadily for the past two years). It continued to fall until April 22nd. The low point (\$41 $\frac{1}{2}$) was reached on April 9-10, right around the day of the Wall Street Journal article and just prior to the demonstrations on April 14. From April 22 to April 27 the stock rose 3 points -- it closed at 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ tonight April 27.

NOTE/ IMPORTANT

Again, we must ask that Friends of SNCC not respond to direct calls for money from the field. Just recently we had a very unfortunate experience of calls being made from Clarksdale, Mississippi by someone who said they were James Jones, the project director (not true), asking for bail money and hospital money in a hurry -- and further, the groups contacted both said that I or someone else in an official position would have to authorize the funds -- so the person got on the phone and impersonated me and, at one point, John Lewis. So -- please remember this -- and definitely check such things out until you are certain of the request. Notify us immediately of such calls always. And, we would appreciate knowing if anyone else received a call from Clarksdale, and, if you did, if you sent money and how much. Get this information to me in writing AIR SPECIAL, please.

FOOD AND CLOTHING NEEDED IN SHAW, MISSISSIPPI

Up until now we have been asking that food and clothing be sent to Selma. But Selma has been pretty much flooded with food and clothing as a result of the "crisis". Now, 119 people are on strike in Shaw, Miss. with the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union. Food and clothing should be shipped to: Mary Sue Gellatly, COFO, Box 547, Shaw, Mississippi. People with shipments should write Mary Sue and tell her what to expect, when and how.

Remember that clothing should be boxed neatly, mended, pressed, etc. Please do not send torn and dirty items.

HELP. WE DO NOT NEED BOOKS of a general sort. America must have cleaned out her basement of dirty, old and yellowed books. We have them stacked miles high. We do still need specific titles plus children's books. We'll send a specific book list soon; as for children's books, let me know when you have them ready for shipping and we'll give you an address.

FREEDOM, Betty