

June 14, 1965

To: Friends of SNCC, Northern offices.

From: Atlanta -- Esther, Margaret, Shirley and Betty

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You all know by now that an important FDP victory was won last week when the Clerk of the House decided that all deposition evidence would be printed. The Government Printing office is now preparing the document and printing estimate is about two weeks. GPO plans are to print 10,000 copies.

AGAIN, WE NEED YOUR HELP. People in your area should be asked to write to their Congressmen for copies of the deposition evidence. A carbon of the letters should go to the Clerk of the House. This, the MFDP hopes, will accomplish two things: 1. indicate to the House members that there is a great deal of continuing interest in the FDP challenge and 2. hopefully speed up the printing process -- and thus the date when the House Sub-Committee on Elections will have the evidence before it.

We couldn't have accomplished the fact of all the evidence being printed without the help of Friends of SNCC and MFDP support groups -- now, again, we have to count on you to build additional support.

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One good way to get additional publicity for the challenge and for the Washington lobby is to plan press conferences for the students who will participate in the lobby (second session) or who return home after participation in the lobby. Please try to do this... and to think of more ways of getting news coverage for the challenge in your area. The next month is crucial!

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We have a new person working in Atlanta in the Northern Coordinating office -- Shirley Wright. She'll be working on gathering background and news information for Northern groups and will also be doing special mailings to churches, unions, assorted adult contacts around the country, etc. Please let Shirley know if there is specific information about SNCC projects, areas we work, etc that you need.

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In the last mailing we sent out yellow paper for people to list their needs. We got two of them back -- we can't believe that no other groups have needs for information, ideas, and other materials...or that we've serviced you so well that you've got no problems that we can help with. We're still waiting for your comments...

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We've asked in the past, and we're asking again, that you put all Friends of SNCC groups and Northern offices on your mailing lists. (Don't forget to put Atlanta (one of us four) on your list, too). A new Friends of SNCC list will be done by tomorrow and will be sent out, so use that as your guide for addresses. We want definitely to encourage this flow of information between groups and with us here...

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We're still in the midst of carpenters, nails, saws, uncoordinated telephone systems, loading and unloading activities, etc. and thus you'll have to forgive slip ups in correspondence, unreturned phone calls and long waits for literature and supplies. The new building is, indeed, taking shape...and very soon all things should run much more smoothly.

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Also, because of our shifting of jobs in the Northern Coordinating sections, all Friends of SNCC groups should be corresponding with Esther Heifetz and all Northern offices with Betty Garman (except in cases of Northern support (demonstrations, boycotts, etc) - Margaret Lauren and requests for project and program information -- Shirley Wright.

AMERICUS, GA. -- the people (SNCC staff) in Americus have asked that people in the North send telegrams and letters to Judge J.W. Smith, Sumter County Courthouse, Americus, Georgia, protesting the fact that two young students, Robertina Freeman and Alex Brown, not be sentenced to reform school for 2 and 5 years respectively on charges (alleged) of fornication.

On Sunday, May 9, Robertina and Alex were picked up at Sunset Park in Americus and charged with fornication. The charges are false. Robertina and Alex were given lie detector tests, which showed they were innocent. A few days later, on May 21, they were found guilty by Sumter Co. Judge William Smith and sentenced to reform school until Robertina turns 18 (she is now 16) and Alex becomes 21 (he is now 16). Robertina helped integrate the white high school in Americus.

This is just one in a series of recent harassment by arrest and intimidation of civil rights workers in this Southwest Georgia County. Please help.

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The following list of supplies was sent to field projects asking them what do they need. As the returns come in we want to have information from our Friends of SNCC and Northern offices as to 1. what of these materials do you have on hand and 2. what of these materials can you raise, ie. obtain by donation? PLEASE RESPOND so that we can get these items to the field...

TOP PRIORITY NEEDS -- phonographs, tape recorders, typewriters, mimeograph machines and movie projectors (16 mm)

Art supplies -- paper (construction and typing paper, rolls of butcher paper, wrapping paper, tablets, lined and unlined paper, cardboard (also paper for offices). Scissors, crayons, magic markers, paints (tempra, water color, finger paints); modeling clay, masking tape, glue, paste, scotch tape; thumb tacks.

Crafts -- pot holder equipment, knitting needles and yarn; scrap material (fabric), needles and thread -- even sewing machines.

Music -- drums, record players, records, musical instruments.

Recreation -- sports equipment, board games, baseball and basketballs, volley balls, nets, swings, slides, etc. balls, bats, gloves.

School supplies -- film strip projectors, blackboards, chalk, etc.

Magazine and newspaper subscriptions.

Office supplies -- pens, pencils, typewriters, mimeo machines, paper supplies, desks, chairs, file cabinets, etc.

-- See if you can't organize some groups in your area to collect some of these items -- from individuals, from stores, from distributing companies. Let people on your newsletter lists know the needs.

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People should be working on obtaining groups to sponsor volunteers at \$10 and \$15 a week. We still have some 100 plus volunteers who are working but not eating...please call churches, ladies groups, or even organize small groups of several families to undertake this support. THIS IS TOP PRIORITY. Without support, the organizers can't continue...

It also might help for all of you to know that our bank account now holds \$1,000...that our outstanding bills are somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000 and we have a payroll (\$15,000) coming up this Friday. I guess you might say we are broke again.