

June 26, 1965

Dear Myles and Conrad,

Tom Ludwig certainly has impressive credentials which should qualify him to be Executive Director of the Community Building Project. However, even if it means selecting someone with less experience in some of the important areas, I am still strongly inclined toward trying to find a Southern Negro, if possible. Another difficulty is that I currently know of no way to guarantee anyone a salary approaching "\$11,000.00 plus housing plus etc." This is completely out of line with what we originally had in mind, aside from any consideration of how much he is worth, the superman that we need certainly will deserve a salary commensurate with his talents but I am afraid we can't count on supplying it in the foreseeable future.

I would be interested in hearing more about the educational program that you discussed with Amzie Moore and the Carawan type project which Willie Peacock is considering developing.

I am planning to spend the last two weeks in August visiting projects in Mississippi and Alabama to try to get a better concept of exactly what is happening. If this little tour with my son and daughter-in-law actually materializes, I will certainly be looking for people to work on the building project for which we have to find a suitable name - how about "Operation Build-up" or something that indicates the nature of the effort? Whatever we call it, I hope we manage to get it off the ground in the Fall, though Spring is probably a more realistic target.

Thank you Connie for having sent me the Southwide Voter Education Project program. Turning to something more immediate, I have written to Dr. Brazeal for his suggestions as to how we might present the New Deal, The Great Society and Solutions. Actually, I may not go to John's Island because I have just learned that my youngest son can be with us at Aspen from the 12th to the 25th of July rather than in August as I had formerly expected. The trip from Colorado to South Carolina for one day may not seem justified under the circumstances since Dr. Brazeal is going to be there and would probably not mind handling the whole topic. I will make a definite decision within the next few days.

By the way, Clarence and Audrey Seniors wrote me that they are planning to be at the Progressive Club again this summer. They are still working on that unending "kidnap" case.

Without transition, a few news notes - Geoffrey Cowan from New York called this morning to tell me about a newspaper, the "Southern Courier" which he will be launching next month in Montgomery, Alabama. All over the state, former college newspaper writers have eagerly agreed to serve as news reporters. Geoffrey was very much surprised at this kind of response among Whites as well as Negroes. Living in the same building with him are the Clifford Durrs. Geoffrey has promised that by the time I reach there in August, he will be able to give me a comprehensive report on Civil Rights and other activities throughout the State.

If you remember them from Oxford, or elsewhere, you might be interested to know that two Mississippi romances are culminating in marriage this week-end, Phil Moore and Nancy Smith today in Winnetka, Paul Cowan and Rachel Brown in New York, tomorrow.

Did you ever hear anything from James Bond about our tapes? I didn't, though I have sent reminders to him through Judy Richardson and Jane Stembridge. Jane, by the way, will be spending the month of August at a little cottage of ours at Gull Lake, Michigan, where she hopes to write a play.

I have been getting some exciting letters about Freedom School plans for Clay County, Mississippi, Southwest Georgia and Arkansas. I will quote you one paragraph for example:

"The heart of the schools, as I see it, will be Joe Stone's Negro History course, and something we might call, for lack of a better name, community research. This means kids finding out about all aspects of Clay County, doing whatever it takes to find out, and writing it down. To find out about "white" religion they will have to try to go to "white" churches. To find out what is going on inside local industries they will have to talk to Negro workers, and try to talk to white managers. One or two kids also go to Atlanta with John to do research. This kind of activity, as

well as the Negro History course, will be the source of material to go into newspapers which we are going to encourage each school to put out"

I have been without a secretary for weeks, but I am sending out a questionnaire today to the people who attended the Freedom School Workshop in the Spring. Nancy Stoller of the Little Rock S.N.C.C. office is interested in exploring the use of opaque projectors. I hope she will develop methods and materials which she can pass on to other people in the Fall.

Best regards,

Mrs. Kenneth F. Montgomery

lm/jl

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