

PROPOSED LETTER TO AREA CONTACTS

[ca. 1965, Oct. 6]

Dear _____;

Thanks for your help and encouragement. Highlander Center is becoming an accepted educational institution in Knoxville. On a Southwide basis, it has expanded the program developed by Highlander Folk School. A major role in this development has been played by Conrad Browne who came to Highlander in July 1963, from Koinonia Farm in Americus, Georgia, where he had been an associate for fifteen years. At the last Board meeting Connie was made Executive Vice President. Since then he has taken over the major responsibilities for the financial and administrative operations of the Center. In carrying out these responsibilities, he has worked closely with the Executive Committee, especially in connection with Knoxville politicians, welfare and educational agencies. As a consequence of his assuming the day to day responsibilities of the Center, I have had more freedom to develop new educational activities, both at the Center and in other parts of the South.

I want you to know more about Connie's background and former connections with Highlander.

In 1956, when Americus, Georgia, law enjoined Koinonia Farm from holding its summer camp, the entire program was transferred to the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle. Connie directed the camp for two seasons and it finally developed into the Highlander Youth Camp under a grant from Harry Bellafonte.

In 1957, Connie participated in the now famous Twenty-fifth Anniversary celebration. He led the singing at the meeting during which the famous billboard picture was taken ("Believe me, I don't direct music any more"). Those of you who have seen the smear sheet put out by the Georgia Education Commission at that time will find his face in a number of the pictures.

I have urged Connie to visit _____ so you will have a chance to get acquainted with him personally. He is arranging his schedule so that he can make a hasty trip on _____ (date). I hope you will not only have a chance to visit with him, but that you can help by seeing that he meets other friends of Highlander

Although Connie has done an exceptionally good job in dealing with problems here, he will need all the advice and assistance you can give him in connection with the overall problems of Highlander.

Currently, I am dividing my time between educational work with civil rights groups in the Deep South, and in exploring possibilities of educational programs in Appalachia. Later on I hope to work in a visit to _____ and I am looking forward to seeing you.

Cordially,

Too long?

insert hour and place