

TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON  
WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

12:05 P.M.  
January 29, 1966

Dear Mr. President:

We have suffering people all over the State of Mississippi. We have hungry people. We have needy people. We have people without homes. Commodities will not meet our needs. What we need is financial support to help these people live until we can work out some way to take care of ourselves. We cannot see where our welfare has been considered in any of the recently enacted poverty programs. We feel that the money for the poverty programs is not getting into the poor people's hands. We see that we will have to solve our own problems. We need financial support to get started.

There are 700 of us gathered here at the Mt. Beulah-Delta Ministry Conference Center at Edwards, Mississippi, trying to see what we can plan together with what we have. Many of us have nothing but ourselves - our bodies. We have lived in a system which has not provided for our displacement as the world has advanced in the mechanical age. From one county we have 65 families who have been put off the plantation with no place to go. We have many families in other counties as well who are faced with the same problem.

We need land on which to build houses, grow foods such as vegetables, hogs, cows, chickens, potatoes, peas, corn, and all the foods necessary to make healthy bodies and minds. We need money to buy materials to build houses.

We need some means of providing mothers some type of training to enable them to earn a living for themselves and their children. We want to be given an opportunity to train these children in childhood and lay a foundation for a better civilization, since children are our future hope and greatest asset.

We don't want charity. We are willing to work for ourselves if given a chance. We need help to get started NOW. We are waiting here at Mt. Beulah for your immediate reply and entreat you not to leave us - is our prayer.

And All Others Present  
at Mt. Beulah

Lawrence Guyot, Chairman MFDP  
Rev. Arthur Thomas, Director,  
Delta Ministry  
Isaac Foster, Mississippi Freedom  
Labor Union