

# NAACP SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FUND

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TWENTY WEST FORTIETH STREET • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10018 • BRYANT 9-1400

April 8, 1966

Dear Friend:

How long must the Negro citizens of the South be subjected to murder and intimidation in their struggle to achieve freedom? How long will the authorities -- federal and state -- permit the brutal murder of civil rights workers to go unpunished? How long will Klan-dominated "lily-white" juries set free the brazen criminals who have perpetrated these disgraceful crimes?

The answers to these questions concern every one of us, Negro or white, wherever we live. At stake is the very core of American morality and justice.

On January 10, nightriders in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, killed Vernon Dahmer, a local NAACP leader, in a pre-dawn firebomb attack on his home and his grocery store. Only by a miracle did Dahmer's family escape death. Dahmer had been leading the local drive to register Negro voters. Ironically, four of his sons are members of the U. S. armed forces.

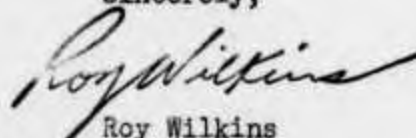
This "Crime Against Civilization," described in the enclosed Washington Post editorial, is but a single link in the shameful chain of lynchings and assassinations designed to obstruct the Negro's drive for full freedom. In August, NAACP leader George Metcalf was critically injured by bomb throwers in Natchez, Mississippi. In December the homes of NAACP leaders were bombed in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Those who believe in freedom for every American MUST FIGHT BACK. Efforts are already under way to define such attacks on civil rights workers as a federal crime. There is only one enduring answer to the bomb throwers and the other cowards -- one meaningful memorial to the martyrs in this struggle: to register every qualified Negro we can reach.

Through the tax-exempt NAACP Special Contribution Fund, we are seeking \$385,000 to mount the most massive voter education campaign in the history of the South. Our goal is to register at least 800,000 new Negro voters by Election Day next November. Only in this way can we attain our freedom and exercise it meaningfully.

I implore you to contribute to this historic undertaking. Please make the most generous possible contribution. It will aid the families of the bomb victims and it will help to liberate the Negro from Southern bondage and brutality.

Sincerely,



Roy Wilkins

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