



Boston Friends of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

New England Regional Office
1555 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

UN 8-0939

May 27 64

WFP
Dear Ed:

Re Sam: he called and spoke to Bob, but Bob didn't want to say anything to him about a psychiatrist, so I finally had to do it. (Bob felt it might do more harm than good coming over the telephone like that.) However, since I had got the information about Bob C. and other doctors in NY, I felt I had to at least give him the information, and it would be up to him whether he wanted to do anything about it or not. He was very reluctant, as you say. He thought it was even rather funny that I was suggesting this; said he didn't have very much confidence in psychiatrists anyhow, and that he had had "these periods of despondency" before. I said, well maybe talking to a doctor will prevent the next period. We finally left it that he would call Bob C. himself and see if they could get together sometime. ~~Bob~~ X Sam's attitude was, well, if he "runs into" Bob C. somewhere, ok. Otherwise, he won't go out of his way for it. My views on the whole thing now are rather mixed. If he feels so negative about talking to a doctor now, it might not do him any good at this point. At least he does know what is available, and I'm leaving it at that.

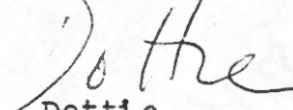
Re John Strickland: we are having a rally here June 6 with Mrs. Hamer. Though it is admission free, I hope to raise some money through a collection. It won't be much, but I hope it will cover Strickland and two others who need financial help. He is strange in some ways, Ed; I don't mean bad. I like him very much. He is now getting a bit nervous about publicity because of his family but will settle down once an inevitable blowup occurs. He is sort of a mystic, I think. Not a "bad" thing. Actually he is very thoughtful about everything. As I said, he is living and walking ~~proof~~ proof that we are right. I am more impressed with him since he took a few days to think things over and decide whether he wanted to make the Big Break.

Re Phil Alden: I will suggest Southwest Georgia to him, but...I wish you would talk to Ruby Dee or Mendy or somebody about him. I ~~may~~ may be getting overly cautious in my ~~old~~ old age, but I do not feel he should be put on the staff at this point in any capacity. He is 18 years old; his parents are terrible racists. What with the climate in the state, I am afraid

"One Man, One Vote"

his parents could be convinced into suing SNCC as an organization for transporting minors across state lines or some such thing. Even if he's not in the state it could be alot of trouble for his because his parents ~~h~~ may be driven to prove that they hate us as much as everyone ~~xx~~ else does. Besides which, his ~~understanding~~ understanding of the situation is practically nil, as Sam felt, and I am afraid he will not be able to understand the tension and terror or stand up to ~~h~~ it. He is very young; he has spent his whole life practically in his room reading physics. Since he got interested he has started to tutob for ~~NSM~~ NSM but the NSM people tell me he has a lot of trouble relating to peepke... is very shy, withdrawn. Understand, I am not being too critical. I understand that he is really a marvel also because of where he comes from. But...the but is that I don't think ~~xx~~ we should take a chance on him at this point...not with things being what they are. If there was a slight chance that his parents might protect him or at least create a plan ~~xx~~ where by they would protect him and themselves at the same time. Or also agree to take whatever comes. But I am afraid they will use Phil, or be convinced to take a position through him to get at us. If you still want me to talk to him, please write immediately air mail, because he may be leaving soon -- we are leaving here June 7 for NY before the training session.

Best regards to you, Ed,
and see you soon,


Dottie