December 7,1964

Dear Sir:

The Christmas season is here again and with it comes the yearly requests for charity, to help others less fortunate to enjoy the holiday season. This request is different. The Friends of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee(SNCC), a committee concerning itself with solving the problems of the large Negro population in America, is asking able citizens to contribute their money to a cause, not a charity, a cause which concerns us all; the cause of maintaining the freedom on which America was founded. The Mississippi Summer Project which sent volunteers South this past summer to work on voter registration drive, educating the Negro citizens in the hope of helping them achieve their constitutional right to vote, has been expanded to the Mississippi Project, a year-round drive to achieve the same ends. Education is not a simple process. It takes time, ambition, hard work, and, of course, money. Organizations and individuals throughout the country have been asked to help in this important endeavor. The responses have been enthusiastic, and we are now asking you to add your contribution to insure that this program can survive. The Negro citizen in the South depends for his rights, and even his life, on an elected official; the sheriff. These officials have been elected almost exclusively by the white population, subjecting the Negro to a government and policy usually directed against his interests, which he had no share in creating. It is, therefore, vitally important that he be given the opportunity that is legally his, to vote. Your contribution can help us to achieve this end; a better life for the Negro, and a better country for all Americans.

Contributions could be sent to the Wisconsin Memorial Union, Box 38, Madison, Wisconsin.

Thank you very much for your attention. The Friends of SNCC would like to wish you a very happy holiday and a successful New Year.