

414 N. 4th Avenue  
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401  
March 12, 1965

Miss Alicia Kaplow  
Friends of SNCC  
615 Howard Place  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Alicia:

I am writing to you representing a group of students here in Wausau at the University Extension Center who have recently become quite disturbed with the existing racial situation in this country. Several weeks ago Dr. Peter Weiss spoke here on SNCC's Mississippi Summer Project, 1964. He stirred the coals which are now burning brightly. We have conceived an idea which may perhaps be considered too far reaching, and would appreciate SNCC's comments and criticisms of it - and help if you think the plan feasible.

What we would like to undertake is a "Freedom March" - beginning at Wausau and ending at Selma, Alabama. This nation wide march would take us through the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. The march would be of the relay type with one group marching 10,20,30 miles and meeting the next group. The groups would be composed of students (and anyone else who would care to join) from the various localities through which the march would pass. A timetable would be set up with designated meeting places and times. Some sort of symbolic object would be passed along and actually be carried all the way. A large replica of the eternal flame piece that lies with Mr. Kennedy has been suggested. The suggested time for this march is the spring recess from colleges. At least two of us would plan to follow the entire march by car and be available to speak all along the way.

This idea has been brought before and received the approval of several of the faculty here. What are your thoughts? I am in complete agreeance that it would take much planning-which could perhaps be coordinated by SNCC on an individual state basis. If the general concensus of your group is that this is too much - I'm sure that this idea must have been advanced already at least once -

then there are a group of us looking for other channels into which to pour our energy.

Does SNCC have any type of trips planned to the south during spring recess? Would it be feasible to start a Friends of SNCC group here in Wausau?

Personally, I would like to offer myself for this summer. Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama - wherever SNCC is going I want to go and work along.

We're looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

*Marty Holmquist*

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