

Mr. Francis Mitchell
White River Junction,
Vermont

Aspen, Colorado
July 9th, 1965

Dear Mitch:

Are you going to Washington for The Congress of Unrepresented People, August 6th-9th? I've just received forwarded material and long letter about it from A.J. Muste. I had planned to spend the first two weeks of August visiting projects - if any - in Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi. However, if all my S.N.C.C., S.D.S., C.N.V.A., etc., friends are going to be in Washington trying to keep us from being annihilated, maybe that's the place to be.

Please advise.

Meanwhile I've been for nine days practicing the Greek ideal, sana mens in sano corpore (not long enough for dramatic results) and my only gesture in deference to real life has been to place an ad in the local paper asking for contributions to the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union (as of tomorrow, with local ad hoc committee).

Even here I get horrible letters about tragic needs. Also from disoriented such as D. Gorton, Jesse Morris, Jane Stembridge - all of whom I love, as you must know.

How is the book progressing?

I'm here accidentally for self-preservation reasons (writing on knee-wobbly). Excuse being that my seventeen-year old daughter is enrolled in the Aspen Music School, studying - one hopes - voice (contralto), piano, opera workshop. In past years I've been here two summers, two spring holidays and one Christmas vacation - mostly with the entire family. Then it was more like Austria, now rather like Switzerland. There is in progress a death combat between "culture" and tourism. However, nothing has yet obliterated the afterglow of the sunset over the western mountains, the fragrance of sagebrush, wild primroses, lupine (Maybe I'm boring you?). I regret the fact that the music students are now exiled to the Four Seasons area, out on Castle Creek road. You no longer hear them practicing their scales above the grocery store. Forgive me. Stream of consciousness.

Five members of my family will arrive four days hence, then I go to Highlander for four days and to Washington for the Continental Congress of 1965. See you?

Love, Freedom, etc.

Concert season began disastrously with Adele Addison in an embarrassing struggle with Handel's "Lucrezia", a most difficult aria. I'm told that Miss Addison wanted to postpone it until later in the season but the director insisted...Amadeus Quartet very bland, no excitement. It's bound to get better.....Student recital presented a fine, spirited string quartet - girls all from Germany - and a bass trio of all things.