

3401 Brookwood Ct.
Columbia, S.C.
Jan. 4, 1960

The Rev. I. DeQuincey Newman, Executive Director
NAACP, S.C. Conference of Branches
371 1/2 South Liberty Street
Spartanburg, South Carolina

Dear Rev. Newman:

Thank you very much for your kind letter of December 22. This is to let you know that you may count upon me for the service you request. However, I shall make bold to suggest that the state-wide conference of religious leaders offers such a unique opportunity to knock on some of the doors which are not yet open, but hopefully standing ajar, that I shall be glad to help secure the participation of some "new blood" and step back if you get an affirmative response from anyone whom you may contact.

Unfortunately, the S.C. Council of United Church Women has seen fit to curtail its activities somewhat. However, Miss Reid and I continue to try to prod helpfully. An invitation from you to the current president, or the past president just might produce good results. They are Miss Winnie Butt, 29 Warren Street and Mrs. WFA Davis, 7 New Town Lane, The Crescent, Charleston, S.C. Also, the four YWCAs in South Carolina should have some leadership which could do a good job with the subject you've assigned me--- I can name a few: Miss Ethel Simpson, Mrs. W.M. Burnett, Mrs. Robert Wykes--- all of the Greenville YWCA, North Street, Greenville, S.C. Mrs. R.B. Cunningham, Miss Lillian Hunt, and Mrs. Warren Greene-- YWCA, 1505 Blanding Street, Columbia, S.C. are all committed persons. Mrs. L.J. Ledeen, 603 Henderson Street, Columbia, S.C. is vitally concerned also. I might suggest persons in Sumter and Charleston also, but doubtless you know them as well or better than I do. In any case, I hope that you may want to invited these persons to attend the fine meetings you will hold. You have fine contacts in the provisional S.C. Council of Churches, I'm sure. Hoever, if I might supplement these leaders with others whom we have found to be alert and desirous of being active, let me know and I'll submit a list giving names and addresses.

Courtney Sicehoff, who is serving as chairman of the S.C. Council on Human Relations has asked that I invite you to a meeting to be held here in Columbia on Sunday, January 10 at 2 p.m. in the conference room (316) at the Methodist Center, 1420 Lady street. Please let me hear that we may expect you. This meeting will concern itself with follow-up of the recommendations made at the SCCHR Board of Directors meeting on December 13th.

I was delighted to hear that Roy Wilkins and Martin Luther King are planning to spend at least 100,000 dollars to implement registration and voting in 1960. This is to let you know that we think this matter

is perhaps the most important single situation on which all of us should focus this year--- that is as both a short-range and a longer-range program. Also, I want you to know that we stand ready and eager to assist in any plans which can be made. We are limited by our tax-exempt status, but not as far as a stepped-up program in citizenship education, is concerned. I was delighted to hear that the Palmetto State Voters Association will be holding in Florence a meeting quite soon. I sincerely trust that this will just be a beginning of a series of citizenship workshops to be held all over South Carolina. I have been very much impressed by Mr. Brooks who participated in your annual meeting at Greenville in November, a Rev. Tilley from Baltimore who worked here in Columbia, and with Miss Ella Baker of Atlanta. Both you and I know how very good our 'buddy' Mr. McCain is with this type thing too. I'm in favor of harnessing all of them and showing the world what we here in South Carolina can do; aren't you?

I'm sure you can read between the lines above and tell that I have a lot of energy I'm ready and eager to use in this connection. However, we must make and carry out an over-all plan. With you as the NAACP executive, we have someone at last who can give us some sustained and continuous leadership in this matter. I personally will drop all less important matters and come anywhere to a meeting you may call. I shudder when I think how very soon precinct meetings will be called--- all of us could stand some training for participation in these meetings as well as in the county and state conventions, don't you think? Incidentally, in a small group meeting recently Mr. W.E. Soloman told of the citizenship school idea which was put into effect in Georgia some years back when they succeeded in getting such a stepped-up registration. He could give us the details, I'm sure. The idea sounded capital!

Unfortunately, we are now in a temporary office on the ground floor at 1745 Sumter Street (our old address). Since I'm without telephone service here, I have to work at home some too. I hope that you may be in Columbia soon when we may have time for a good talk. If so, let me know ahead of time, if possible. My home 'phone # is SUNset 7-4276.

With every good wish for the wonderful work you will be doing and with every assurance of our desire to cooperate fully with you,

Cordially yours,

(Mrs.) Alice N. Spearman

P.S. Know you were pleased with the meeting on New Years Day!

Enclosed copy of Penn Fall 6/20 21/59

Mr. J.K. Blum
827 Adger Rd.
Columbia

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