

Moses

August 4, 1963

Dr. Susanne H. Freund
413 Furches Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Freund,

The door was unlocked at 413 Furches Street when I came through in July. I went in, but when Cocoa did not appear, I knew you must be away! It was very disappointing. Peanut wanted me to stay with here, so this is what was done. We talked and understood. This is good. Also, we were able to meet with Rebbis, Mary, and other good folk. I missed the talk with you though...the sequel.

With your money and some help from others, I finally reached my destination and am now working with Bob Moses in the Delta of Mississippi. A full moon tonight and the presence of Spanish moss, magnolia, cops... We did not gain admission to the First Baptist Church nor the First Methodist Church tonight.

We are doing three important things down here. Long range programs. I wanted to tell you about them and solicit your help. Bob Moses, as you may know, is the person who has single-handedly organized Mississippi to the point where people in the Delta are ready to participate in a Delta-wide work stoppage, go to Parchman State Penitentiary and stay, and go to the pells come August 6 despite threats from the Mississippi power structure. They are jobless and singing. Some of the old fervor is just now catching hold in the Delta. It's almost like the days in 1960 except we are thinking better now. We are thinking about literacy and the vote, about job training and new industry. This is beyond lunchcounters and it is time to go beyond. Also, I am working with Bob. These are the things we are doing.

We are working out plans for a literacy program which we eventually cover the South. The departments of Labor, Health, Education, and Welfare; and the Justice Department are behind us. They will give money soon. Foundations are talking seriously about literacy. They are meeting very soon too. In the meantime, we are researching existing institutions which might conceivably be used as centers of adult education and job training. We are also outlining a rationale for new institutions.

It is quite clear that until these people receive some fundamental education, they will be stuck in the cotton fields at \$2 a week. It is clear that unless something is done about school dropouts, the young Negro will never emerge as he must. It is clear that the whole trend toward education is present, that Negro graduates are not well educated, that Negro graduates are not qualifying for the jobs that do open, that Negro students are not qualifying for the colleges that open to them.... that the key to the vote and the better job lies in education and, finally, that one of the keys to racial understanding and integration lies in educating the rural whites as well.

The literacy program will be for Negroes and whites and, in addition to basic education, will offer job training for jobs that exist right now in the South. We will conduct the pilot literacy project in the Mississippi Delta. Presently, Dr. Blyth of the Center for Programed Learning in New York, is directing the literacy program. He is engaged in research - what are the job opportunities in Mississippi? What are the institutions which will be open to this? Where are the people who can be trained in programed materials, and writing of them? No programs exist for total illiterates. We have to write them.