

SNCC

October 18, 1963

Miss Mary King
SNCC
8-1/2 Raymond Street
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mary:

I've talked with Stanley Newman of Congressman William Pitts Ryan's office about using affidavits on police brutality, and he promised to write you. I am also going to get in touch with assistants to Senators Kuchel and Javits, but I first want to talk with Courtland Cox and Bill Mahoney -- reaching them is hell -- about possible gambits. In the meantime, however, if you want to try those two Senators, their crucial assistants for this are Stephen Horn (for Kuchel) and Stephen Korzman (Javits).

I've also talked further with Hal Witt about his ideas for training SNCCers to gather affidavits that will stick, and he explained the following: Under the present law, the only Federal recourse is criminal prosecution of brutal cops; and the rules for criminal evidence are so restrictive (as part of the general protections for the accused) that the evidence must be very very good indeed. Specifically, the Supreme Court has ruled that it isn't enough to prove that Cop A beat up Negro B -- the question is to prove that he did it not because he likes to beat people up, or even just likes to beat Negroes up, but with the full intent of denying the victim a constitutional right. But don't worry about the details, which as a non-lawyer I didn't always follow -- the point is that to get useful and effective affidavits it is necessary to know what needs to be proved. That requires training. So what Witt would like to do is to train some one or a few SNCCers who would then go back into the South as affidavit-gathers -- kind of legal troubleshooters. We may be able to work this idea into our program for the four or five students we are looking forward to having in the Spring. Also, Witt has talked with the ACLV's lobbyist here, and he would be glad to act as contact man and "pusher" for affidavits that Justice is ignoring but Senators would be ready to press.

Various addresses for all these people are as follows:

Mr. Stanley L. Newman
Office of Rep. William Pitts Ryan
1517 New House Office Bldg.
Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. Stephen Horn
Office of Senator Thomas Kuchel
361 Old Senate Office Bldg.
Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. Stephen Kurzman
Office of Senator Jacob Javits
326 Old Senate Office Bldg.
Washington 25, D. C.

Mr. Hal Witt
600 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

And also, though he is now on vacation and I haven't talked with him recently,

Mr. Larry Mirel
Office of Rep. Robert Kastenmeier
1725 New House Office Bldg.
Washington 25, D. C.

It was good to meet you and Bobbie, and I had excellent talks with Staughton Lynd and Jack Minnis. Thank you much, and the best of luck. Let me know if there's any other way I can help; I'll write when I've talked with Cox, Mahoney, and Carmichael.

Regards,

ARTHUR I. WASKOW
Peace Research Institute Fellow