

John Stevenson 1 Sun. night

Dear Mother,

I haven't had time to get you off a decent letter for quite a while now. Not too much new. I've just been going from door to door, canvassing - wxplaining to people about the Freedom Democratic Party & trying to get them freedom registered. I forget whether or not I ever explained all this about the FDP - Registration, the challenge at the Dem. Nat'l. Convention. That the Freedom Rg. is to prove how many people would like & vote across Miss. - only 6% of the Negroes in the state are currently reistered. (The Miss. population is 45% Negro, and in well over 1/3 of the counties they are in the majority, which is one reason why things have been so severe here. The Freedom Dem. Party is being organized because the Repub. Party is of course almost non-existent here, while the Miss. Dem. Party has almost no communication with the Nat'l Dem. Party - has stated that it isn't a part of the N D P, didn't support Kennedy or the platform in 1960, probably won't support Johnson this year, tec. On these grounds, & also on the grounds that the Miss. Democrats won't let even registered Negroes participate inits processes, the FDP will send a delegation to Atlantic City & demand to be seated instead of the reg. Miss. delegation. So we're also busy now arranging precinct meetings.

Matin Luther King is coming this Fri. for a short while.

Canvassing is hard, hot, deadening work. Explaining the same thing over and over, running into the same answers, problems, fears, over & over. Alot of people are bitter, or cynical, or scared, a lot whose souls seem to be dead inside them, but I haven't yet met the mythical contented Negro so dear to Southern hearts. Living conditions are horrible.

Went swimming yesterday, & today for the first times since I've

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I'm still fine, healthy, not very wealthy, but perhaps becoming a little wiser, & doing some good.

Hope you're all well.

Love,

John