

June 10, 1964

Mr. & Mrs. Micheal Schwerner
2505 1/2 Fifth Street
Meridian, Mississippi

Dear Mike and Rita,

Obviously the tension is gradually rising as your activities probe more deeply into the use of direct action. I am pushing very hard for national office to set up a high level Justice Department conference, to discuss specific protective measures for the days to come and punitive action for times past. To date I have nothing definite to report.

Events of the past few months indicate a growing inclination among southern Negroes to "get in there and start swinging." While this is the best tradition of the "fine old American spirit of competition", it's playing hell with non-violent philosophy. Anticipating as you must, the outbreak of violence around your demonstration, I urge you to emphasize non-violence without shame or apology.

As the passage of the Civil Rights Bill grows imminent, I suggest that you begin to set up testing teams and plans for any eventualities in regard to those tests: reception, refusal to serve, ejection, violence from customers. We must be prepared for any of those and have already decided what the next step is to be.

The money problems that you have, simply reflect the money problems that CORE has. Hold on the best you can; I will scream as loudly as I can.

Sincerely,

Richard Haley

RH/ds