

John Robinson - Please Return

July 2, 1964

Jo Ann Ooiman
c/o Marcia Hall
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

Dear Jo Ann,

We received your letter and accompanying materials yesterday. Despite all of the horror we had heard about previously, I think we were shocked by the magnification of it in the current Mississippi situation - it is actually worse than I had ever really envisioned. I believe that people do care. How many really understand is something I do not know. But I cannot believe that anybody with any awareness can keep from caring. In Galesburg, I will do be doing whatever I can to help people become and stay aware. I would like to circulate your letter and materials freely. I have also wondered about perhaps making your letter and materials (besides the Harlan Johnson material) available to local newspapers. However, I would not want to do this unless you wanted it done. Would you please tell me what your feelings are about this?

I sent your address to Sid Finley, just as a double check, He now has all of your addresses. I am trying to collect and send some more materials, particularly the 6th to 8th grade materials. Letters urging protection and federal intervention have been sent and are continuing to be sent to Dirksen, McCloskey, and R. Kennedy. Please tell me if there is something else we can do.

I am not really very articulate with words, Jo Ann - particularly with something like this which is so indescribably extreme. I can only say that people like you and the others in this project are the the only real hopes that this country has. I know that this whole process is forcing me and many others to re-examine ourselves in terms of what we are or not doing, and why. I don't know that we can even begin to measure up to what you are doing, but maybe we can begin with ourselves, and at least make some small beginnings.

I heard from Eloise Choy-Mee the other day. She is applying for the Peace Corps, and hope to go to Kenya.

The local chapter is still working toward open occupancy or fair housing law. We have some rough plans for the resumption of the tutoring program in the fall, and hope to get some more preparatory work done soon.

I guess that's about all the news for now. The best of everything to you. My wife wants to add a few words (P.S. I expect to see the Dukes this evening and will share your letter with them)

Sincerely,

Louis Lehmann
Louis Lehmann

(over)