

Friday July 3

Hello.

We are finally in Laurel. Since we are not permanently settled yet you had better not write me. ~~In a few days or maybe today you will get an order like you never got before. That will be my mailing address for a while. The NASTUG envelope will identify the recipient. Do not xxxxxxxx.~~
kxTxx

He is in jail now. write ~~the~~ 40

In Hattiesburg we held several mass meetings the like of which you never saw. Such a meeting, held in a church, begins by some earnest singing, mostly by the adolescents since they are the most eager and show up for the meetings first, and then as the adults and others fill up the hall the singing is cut off for speeches. Announcements are made about the Freedom Schools and the Voter registration work: does anybody have a car we could use, does anybody have a typewriter, etc. Various SNCC workers exhort on the importance of getting down to the courthouse even though you failed the test five times, you might pass the fifth, etc. And then the testimonials begin. Individuals stand and tell what is on their minds in complete honesty, ~~and~~ Some tell how they are not afraid; some how they have never been to school before and are eager to have the chance, and some tell how glad they are that things are changing. At one meeting these went on for almost an hour. Then, after some concluding announcements we all join hands and sing we shall overcome loud enough to wake the dead. nobody ever wants to stop and usually before we are out of the church another, more jazzy song has begun spontaneously. The need for strict security, especially at nighttime, sends the SNCC workers home in a car caravan instantly, but a mountain moving spirit develops at these meetings and it lasts a long time.

I wish I could give you some detail of what we are doing, but the mail is not safe.

Love,

Tom