

Terri Shaw 1

Hattiesburg

~~July 5, 1961~~

July 5

Condon in some way

Dear Mama and Papa,

I had meant to have a letter waiting for you when you got home, but I have been terribly busy and had little time to write to anyone. I've been working 14 to 16 hours a day -- without exaggeration. Today the mercury hit 90 at 8 A.M. and it was 105 most of the day. ~~Nevertheless, I do not mind the heat too much.~~ ^{it} In fact I spent most of ~~the day~~ in girdle, stockings and a hot rayon dress waiting for a bunch of congressmen who never did make it through to Hattiesburg. ^{But} The worst part of the work for me is the fact that I am not directly in the fight ~~in~~ i.e. I don't go canvassing, etc., but must sit in a hot, dirty office with other irritable people all day. It's very frustrating because you are never sure if you are accomplishing anything at all. Yet at the same time I can have nothing but disgust when I hear people voice doubts about the program. If you were to spend just one day here you would never doubt the need for such a program. The business about 'outsiders' is so ridiculous, when you look at the complete silence of the white 'moderates' of Mississippi through years of denial of rights, bombings, and murders, ^{and} when you see ~~the size of the job to be done~~ realize that it is too ~~much~~ ^{a job} big for Mississippi Negroes to handle by themselves ^{and much} ~~much too important for Americans elsewhere to ignore.~~

~~Hattiesburg is considered a 'liberal' city, and we haven't had too many incidents. The cars of two volunteers were shot late one night and one carload was stopped by a cop who swore at them and slapped one guy. Aside from that we've just been getting the well-known 'hate Stare' and hoodlums driving up and down in front of the office. Don't worry about me, because we observe very strict security measures-- no social life at all, etc.-- and the local chief of police seems determined to protect us although he~~

Love,
Terri

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