Dear Pat:

I had meant to write again to you much sooner than this - but the usual little futilities intervened - among them lectures to fat and prosperous lawyers back for a new spread of butter on the bread and butter that constitutes their professional lives. Also a talk on civil rights to 100 Brazilian college students forced me to do some swift generalization. When a check came in for a book-review I'd done for the Times I thought of your plea for financial help for the cause and was about to send it on to you when the local SNCC office called seeking sudden help to meet the bail demands which had suddenly arisen in Greenwood, So. Louis Jaffe and I dipped in to our pockets and telegraphed off $200 - which we like to think got someone out of the clink. This cancelled out my good intentions in so far as your plea was concerned - and now I'll have to wait until I can do a little refuelling, but I'll hope to send something on for the cause.

I wonder how much the strange and ugly outer world gets through to you - Harlem, Brooklyn, Barry Goldwater? Probably the trouble in New York will play to some extent into BG's irresponsible hands, but I live in the faith that whatever aid the white backlash may give him it can't make up for the losses he suffers by his international posture. It's one thing to Mrs. Hicks or Governor Wallace to get a large vote in the North - but would either of them get far if, coupled with a bitter attitude towards the racial issue, there were a venomous and truculent insistence that we'll have our
way as we see it throughout the world? In this juncture of affairs I wonder whether any of us does any good at all by pointing out defaults and deficiencies in the Johnson administration—perhaps we really must treat him and his government as ideal—sort of a blissful mixing of the qualities of Lincoln, Washington, Winston Churchill, and Albert Schweitzer. And don't let us hear another word about that nice Bobo Baker—until Thanksgiving Day and Xmas.

Virginia Casey is off to England on Tuesday night—planning, I gather, to stay there just as long as she can, but doubtful whether she can override some of the restrictions. At the end of the week I'm off to another NAACP Institute for lawyers—this time in Virginia. I've heard nothing from the Tougalo project—so assume that I'll not be in Mississippi this season.

Any words you send in are tremendously welcome. Keep up your spirits.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Miss Pat Vail
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