

Arlene Bock
CFO
838 Lutz Street
Canton, Mississippi

August 15, 1964

President Lyndon Johnson
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Sir;

On the evening of August 10, the Mt. Pleasant Willing Worker Society Hall, at Guckstadt in rural Madison County, Mississippi, which had been the site of a Freedom School since July 20, and where I have been teaching since August 1, was burnt to the ground.

Contrary to press reports, the building was not severely damaged, but levelled.' Contrary to press reports, the building was not empty, but contained almost one thousand books on a wide variety of subjects, which were to have formed the nucleus of a permanent library this fall (the only Library available to negroes in the area), the church's only piano, as well as the benches and tables which form the furnishings of a church. All of these things are now reduced to ashes.

While the FBI have undertaken an investigation of this burning, the seventeenth this summer under similar conditions, it is my understanding that they are halting the investigation, despite a warning given by a member of the white community, a woman by the name of Mrs. Sharp, approximately one and one half weeks ago; despite the Molotov Cocktail I found on a back window sill of the building three weeks ago; and despite the real danger that the church under construction by the Society across the roadway may meet a similar fate.

While I fully realize how difficult an investigation can be in such a hostile climate, under these conditions it is almost