

October 5, 1964

Miss Mary Varela
P.O. Box 654
Batesville, Miss.

Dear Mary,

I'm sorry you were gone this weekend, because two men from Michigan State came to Canton, and I wish you could have talked to them. But I told them about the literacy project as well as I could and promised that I'd write to you and tell you about theirs.

Dr. Robert Green of the College of Education, Mich. State, wants to try an experimental educational project which will involve faculty and graduate students from the School of Education at Mich. State and Mississippians. In our terms, the closest thing to call it would be a Freedom School, because I gathered that it is not aimed at adults. He'd like to work with children of all ages though, since he skid described ideas for several groups of school-age children, as closely as I could tell. He wants very much for it to be a "community" project with maximum participation of local adults. The stuff taught would be basic educational subjects--verbal and mathematical skills mostly, but we didn't talk much about the stuff talked. I presume he would want you to talk to him about that. Unfortunately, we were interrupted several times by various people, and this is about all of the groundwork that I understood. Then we were carried away by a detailed discussion of WHERE the project would work (I went along with this, thinking that I'd get another chance to talk with him in more detail about the project itself.). He wants a location where they can set up a fairly permanent structured "school", and have some kind of administrative headquarters as well. I think he is also aware of the need to provide for the needs of the outside teachers--orientation, recreation, etc.

Bob Green was involved with the Prince Edward project (I think he was over evaluation, or testing, or something like that); he has close ties with the government through that, and he has since been active with the anti-poverty program, specifically the youth camps. Both through the government and foundations I gather that he knows where the money is, so I don't think this project would founder for lack of means.

The man with him was a campus minister, Rev. John Duley. He's active in the NAACP in East Lansing, and is interested, along with Bob Green, in involving the University more with Mississippi. I hope you'll be able to set up a worthwhile correspondence with ~~MM~~ both of them. Addresses are: Dr. Robert Green, Asst. Prof. of Education, Michigan State University, East Lansing, and Rev. John Duley, 148 W. Grand River, East Lansing. Sorry I don't have a more specific address for Bob.

Other things they're talking about is adopting the Canton project, and providing some kind of mutual contact and assistance with Rust College. You might have something to say about those projects too.