

October 10, 1964

Dear JoAnn,

We were glad to get your last letter and to receive your suggestions. We are just now starting to contact the schools to see if our Mississippi Informational Program can be presented there. I was thinking along the same lines that you suggested--perhaps there could be a "Mississippi Day", when every child brought some little item--a pencil, crayons, etc. that could be put in a box for Mississippi. Just the other day my daughter came home to ask for soap to go in a Red Cross Box for Europe and I was rather upset when I thought of people in Mississippi, much closer to us, who need things so badly. I suppose that I shouldn't resent the Red Cross in such a fashion, but right now, I am rather Mississippi-minded. Nevertheless, the children love to do this and this would be a good way of making the community more mindful of Mississippi.

We have already booked the Mississippi Informational Program at our church in, of all places, Peoria. Our minister has given us the first Sunday in December and said that the offering for that day will go to Mississippi, which is rather encouraging. This is a rather liberal group, so we are hoping that the offering will be large. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Newman are accompanying this program to provide music in the form of freedom songs and Pat Weiland has agreed to go along to tell about her experiences in Mississippi, so this should be a good program. Then we are hoping also to have your tape recordings by that time, also.

Pat is trying to organize a S.N.C.C. program there on campus. We have rather mixed emotions about this, mainly because we feel that N.A.A.C.P. is about all that this town can support and also because Pat keeps intimating that N.A.A.C.P. isn't doing anything down there in Mississippi, which rather hurts since it was the Galesburg N.A.A.C.P., which raised her living expenses so that she could go down there. Nevertheless, I can see that S.N.C.C. will probably have a special appeal to students and may be able to get some things done that we can't. We certainly can't accomplish anything by calling each other names anyway; it seems to me that cooperation between all of these organizations is of the utmost importance.

The Knox Tutoring Program is again underway with much enthusiasm on the part of the tutors (especially eager freshmen) and a shortage of "Tutees", which we hope will be supplemented by other sources, perhaps L.U.L.A.C. The governor's office somehow found out about our little program and wrote commending the college officials for their efforts in the area of human relations, so that where the program was just barely tolerated by the college before, we are getting their full support. Dean Pillsbury has said that any tutor and tutee will be admitted to any college function free--plays, movies, etc. and he has promised to transport Dave and Sandy in his own car for any conferences at the various high schools. So, a tip of the hat to good old Governor Kerner; I am rapidly becoming a great fan of his--I hope that he win reelection. Right now there's some sort of nasty scandal revolving around his campaign manager and some envelopes, but it's rather silly of the Republicans to say anything since Governor Stratton (former) is now coming due for his income tax evasion trial. I am of opinion that politics is a dirty business.

I have had to resign from my volunteer activities with the Democratic Headquarters--not because of the unsavory odor of politics--but because homework is rather more heavy than I had thought. I still plan to help drive people to the polls on election day, though.

Tuesday night we sent you 12 boxes of used clothing by way of Dohrn Trucking Company. The man at the trucking company said that it might be possible for things of this sort to be trucked without cost, but that you people in Mississippi would have to make the enquiry from there. Has anyone thought of doing that? That is, writing the major trucking organizations and getting authorization for these items for the Mississippi Project to be shipped without cost.

There are all sorts of new professors at Knox. I have one, a Mr. Wren, for my Shakespeare class. I was really supposed to be taking mathematics this semester, along with my German, but the last week before school there was a schedule change, so I am now taking a junior English class instead. This class is huge--must be over 40 students at least, which makes it a bit uncomfortable for the free exchange of conversation and comments. The professor has been forced to resort to using a seating chart because of the size of the class. I have never been in such a large class since I started sporadically attending Knox, so this was a surprise to me. So far we have progressed at a good clip--we polished off Richard II last week and are about to embark upon Henry IV, Part I, for next week. Mr. Wren is a young man who is fond of reading from the plays and reads very well. He sports an LBJ button which rather endeared him to me from the start. Anyway, it looks as if this is going to be an enjoyable semester.

I have Herr Funke for German, as I did last year. I like him very much and German promises to be more fun, now that the grammar has been dealt with. We are reading a book of short stories by modern German authors, which is a good deal more interesting than the textbook we had last year. The girl sitting next to me had four years of German in high school and said she translated The Diary of Anne Frank last year, so she is pretty advanced, compared to me. She plans to major in German, I guess.

The real shortage at Knox this year seems to be in living space for the men. Some of the freshmen are sleeping on mattresses on the floors of reconverted rooms in Seymour Hall until the ordered bunk beds arrive. The Fine Arts Building opened on schedule, although I feared for awhile this summer that it wouldn't. I haven't been inside it yet, as the dedication ceremonies were held outdoors and I was coming down with a cold at the time and didn't want it to be any worse than it already was.

We had a bad blow for our open occupancy bill last night. The Galesburg-Register-Mail ran a lead editorial against it for the usual stick-in-the-mud reasons. It was bad enough when this dear newspaper backed Goldwater, but this is positively the last straw--I won't have that thing in my house any longer. They are so sneaky. They took all sorts of depositions about discrimination in housing in the Galesburg area, none of which they have printed. This is exactly what happened with the letters that you sent us--they kept them for a month and never printed them and then wrote an article against the Whole Mississippi Project. I don't have enough evil words for them.

Well, that's enough vindictiveness from me for awhile. I must hurry and take my daughter to ballet lessons and my husband is demanding the typewriter anyway. Sincerely, The Lehmanns - Laura, Lou
Dear Mr. Schick