

March 16, 1965

Miss Pamela Parker
Carleton College
Northfield, Minn. 55057

Dear Pam:

Your mother and I watched the NBC Documentary at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon on the Selma situation. The commentary was excellent and it went into the problem in depth. The brutality of the State Police a week ago Sunday shocked the nation and I know from the discussions I have had with the people I am involved with, they have in many instances changed their opinion concerning the problem in general. Probably the turning point for most thinking people was the charge of Sheriff Clark and his mounted horse posse. These pictures brought forth the attitude and the operation of the Sheriff system in our southern states. These pictures told a story far better than books or articles on the subject. Last June when Schwerner, Goodwin and Chaney were murdered there was some concern but there was also a debate on the whys and wherefors of the murder. In this charge by Sheriff Clark and his posse there is no room for debate because you saw the actual action and the complete disregard for unarmed peaceful assemblage. The murder of the Rev. Mr. Reeb put a further cap on the situation and there is no question that these unfortunate happenings will become and are the turning point in the registration of those citizens who have been denied the right to register.

You stated in your letter there will be increased friction between the Rev. Mr. King and SNCC. Please bear in mind that the law must be obeyed and to have the march last Tuesday would have violated a federal court injunction. This move on the part of the Rev. Mr. King and the marchers would have prejudiced the hearing which is now in process in Montgomery, Alabama. It also would have resulted in the loss of life and injury to many of the marchers. I do not know what the decision will be by the Federal Judge in the hearing but if it is affirmative in the cause of the Rev. Mr. King and his followers the march will be held and the State and local authorities must provide adequate protection.

You must remember that the only difference between violent movements and non-violent movements is the use of weapons. Both are forms of warfare and exert tremendous pressure on the emotions and lives of all concerned. The movements are making excellent gains and they will continue to make gains but it will take time because in any kind of warfare even the group that is being defeated takes up a great deal of time through their delaying action.

I enclose some clippings which I have saved for you and in the "Public Affairs Advisory" letter I want you to particularly look at the section on trade unions. From my last issue of Management News there is an excellent article on "Job Opportunities for Negroes". In the Herald Tribune article students from the University of Mississippi visit Long Island University. I also enclose a Princeton Freedom Center Newsletter for February. Do you have any chance get this letter? If you do not, I will be glad to forward this to you.

Love,