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Southern Christian Leadership Conference

DEPARTMENT OF VOTER REGISTRATION AND POLITICAL EDUCATION

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*

Ralph Abernathy, *Treasurer, Vice Pres. at Large*

Andrew J. Young, *Executive Director*

Hosea L. Williams, *Director*

July 23, 1965

Miss Peggy Ryan
Santa Barbara SCOPE
P. O. Box 197
Waverly, Virginia

Dear Peggy:

Thank you for the Weekly Report from Sussex County, Virginia dated July 12. Sorry to be so long in responding, but, as you can imagine, the Atlanta office is extremely busy now.

First, let me commend you for the fine job your chapter is doing in Sussex County. We have had nothing but good reports from the staff people who have visited you. Keep it up!

Your problem with Garland Gray is similar to many small communities in the south. This is the reason we must have an effective political education program. It is our desire and aim that men like Gray will not be able to attain such power when the potential of the Negro vote in the south is realized -- but that potential will not be realized effectively without a solid background of political education. So our suggestion to you in handling this problem is to keep busy with an active and imaginative political education program -- you may not see the results you hope for overnight, but this is the only way we will ever see results at all. When people begin to realize that they have the power to deal with these problems, some of the fear should be dissipated, and their minds will be open wide for the understanding of how Gray keeps his power and what they can do about it.

We are sending you the citizenship workbooks under separate cover. Please keep us posted on your progress -- especially in political education!

In God we trust,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hosea L. Williams".
Hosea L. Williams

HLW:df