

Randy
Ans.

DRB-1590

908 High Street
Montgomery, Alabama
April 2, 1965

Dear Sir:

Sunday, March 7, while in Jackson, Miss. attending a COFO Conference at approximately 10:00 that afternoon, we were dispatched to Selma, Alabama, because there was a crisis, people had been beaten, gassed, and trampled by horses. We immediately started for Selma, on Highway 80. We were stopped just outside of Nicholia County, Mississippi. Four cars were charged with improper passing and reckless driving. We arrived in Selma at approximately 8:00 that evening to see what we could do to help calm the people of Selma.

We attended a mass meeting to let the people of Selma know that the the people of the Mississippi Core and the SNCC, who has always worked for freedom and justice, were supporting them. We began immediately to have a conference with the SCLC and SNCC staff, who are based in Selma, on the situation and how else we could be helpful of the Selma scene.

The people of Selma were very interested in the march to Montgomery, in protest of the killing of James Reed and that of Jim Lee Jackson. We then began various marches in Selma composed of people trying to get to the court house. We were stopped by Baker and the Alabama Stern Troopers. A rope was put across the street as a boundary line. We then began to try to get to the court house. Approximately 300 students were rushing a demonstration at the same time at the other end of the street determined to get to the court house. Approximately 30 people picketed the court house. They, the students, were stopped by stern troopers and all staff people available at that time locked hands and arms in front of the crowd to prevent any beating of the students. Only one person was hit, he had a busted lip.

On Tuesday, March 9, we assisted SCLC's James Farmer of CORE and other dignitaries to line up a march enroute to Montgomery. We at that time proceed across the bridge where again we were stopped, after praying we turned around and brought approximately 4,000 people back to the Brown's Chapel, where we heard speeches by James Farmer, Jim Farmer, Dr. Martin King, and several others.

On Sunday, March 14, students from Alabama State College and Tuskegee Institute were beaten by possessmen in Montgomery. Again Monday morning the students were beaten by the possessmen. We were dispatched at that time to Montgomery, on arrival tension was very high, the people wanted to demonstrate. I immediately began to work in security to try to keep in contact with every across state between Selma and Montgomery, in case any thing happened and where people were last seen.