

December 1, 1966

Mr. Otis Brown, Jr.
Sunflower County Improvement Association
Indianola, Mississippi

Dear Friend Who Never Gives Up:

If there were about one thousand people like you in the United States we could make this place into a paradise in about ten years.

I am sorry to be so slow in replying to your letter of September 14. I have a feeling there is an October or November letter somewhere around, which I will come across eventually, but I have just had the excruciating pleasure of rereading the September one.

I was proud to learn that the people in Indianola were determined to try to enroll their children in the white school in spite of all the obstacles and with no comment on how bad those schools are.

I wish I had been able to send a box-car full of clothes. I will try to send a few clothes next week.

For a while I was up to date on the struggle going on in Mississippi between C.A.P. and the local groups for funds to keep the headstart program going. At the moment I realize that I don't know exactly what is happening, though I do remember that funds were curtailed for many headstart programs throughout the United States. In fact, I learned last week that the headstart program in Evanston has been hanging ever since September, with children and teachers waiting for approval to continue the program.

I hope your volunteer program has been able to continue somehow. The whole story about voter

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registration, no jobs, and no cars is devastating. When I reach this point I find myself speechless. Please continue to keep me posted as to what is going on.

By the way, I was in California last month for the wedding of my son Ruffin Harris, whom you may have met when he was working in Cleveland with Lee Bankhead. He later worked in Perry County, Alabama. After Ruffin's wedding I went to the Black Power conference at Berkeley where Stokely made a wonderful speech to about fourteen thousand people. As I sat there listening to him in a big outdoor theater, somebody in front of me turned around and said, "Hello, Lucy." It was Jenell Glass. You can imagine how thrilled I was to see her.

I have been asked to help assemble some material about the Freedom Movement for the Wisconsin State Historical Society and also for the University of Tennessee. Would you be willing for me to give them copies of your letters as part of the history of this important period in the United States? The conditions which you describe tell an important story which could never be found in the usual classroom history books.

I am enclosing my check for \$150.00 which I hope you can use for your car or the Freedom House or whatever is currently most urgent.

With best wishes to you and all the Sunflower Freedom voters.

Yours in the struggle,

Mrs. Kenneth F. Montgomery

Encl/ Ck.\$150.00