

Rev. John M. Wilson

391 Walthalla Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43202
9-8-67

Dear Maurice:

To my very real regret I find that it will not be possible for me to attend the Operation Freedom meeting tomorrow. Saturday used to be a good day for me to get away--but in recent years my responsibilities within the Council have grown to the place where almost every day is preempted--except in July and August when there are still a few clear days. We have a study commission at work which I am confident will recommend that the job be divided with an associate executive as soon as funds can be made available...probably by the time I am slated to retire!

My next free "first Saturday of the month" will be in January. I have put Operation Freedom down for that day and will make every effort to hold it. Unless there should be an unexpected change, I will be in Warren, Ohio the first Saturday on October; in November I have a Seminar in the morning and speak to the So. Ohio Church of the Brethren annual meet in the afternoon; in December, I have the morning Seminar here but could get down to Cincy by mid-afternoon if you were expecting a long meeting.

I have not been able to make any effective contact with Green Giant Co. However, it seems to me on further reflection that the folks in Miss. should first get some expert advice on what vegetables can best be grown on the soil being considered and what would be involved in an adequate processing plant. Application for this kind of help should be made by them through the Extension service of the Department of Agriculture. If they did not get a response, I would be glad to go to work on Ag. Sec'y Orville Freeman (I served on his Human Rights Commission when he was governor of Minn.)

With this information in hand, probably the best plan would be to apply to OEO for capital for a cooperative to operate the processing plant. I understand that a Negro coop in Alabama recently got nearly a quarter million dollars for a processing operation for vegetables. With Ted Berry as the number 2 man in the OEO, we should be able to get some action on such a project--but if not, we could keep trying at Green Giant. However, these big operations ~~plan~~ plan their investments a long time ahead, and I wouldn't want to count on any immediate help. At all events, I would suggest that Op. Freedom talk to Amzie Moore about the above possibility. As you know, there is now in Miss. a precedent for grants to an all-Negro project, something earlier denied.

With best wishes to you and Julia and to the others at Op. Freedom,

Cordially,

JMW

PS - An office one way av 18 w. Spring St. The Hotel Chatham may
room - 64 - Come + see us some time.