



# Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

6 Raymond Street, N.W.  
Atlanta 14, Georgia

688-0331

January 11

Dear Howard and Clarice,

Thank you for the present. You may be surprised, when you get the check back, to find it was deposited in my account in New York. After much thought, I decided that it could be best used if it went toward school next year, which I am already planning for. Thank you.

Things here are lively. Have you read of the Federal Suits filed by the Justice Department in Terrell county? Local Newspapers give little or no coverage, and we didn't get a very clear picture of the situation from John Martin of the Justice Department when he spoke with us, but briefly: Sheriff Mathews of Terrell County is named in a suit, US vs. ZT Mathews (which is a swinging, in-a-nutshell description of the situation in general) for conspiring to deprive citizens of their lawful rights. Twelve others are named in the injunction; local land owners, law enforcement officers, and the Sheriff of an adjoining county. The suit was provoked by the action of the fourteen men when they broke up a meeting last summer. If Claude Sitton hadn't splashed the story across the nation on the Times' front page action might never have been taken, but there were a lot of questions after the story came out. The Justice Department is using the Criminal Civil Rights Act Statute (section 242 or 241, Howard?). It's an important case, since the Supreme Court decided against a similar case filed in Georgia; ~~where~~ the court decided there were no grounds on which to establish that a conspiratorial relationship to deprive Bobby Hall (who had been killed in jail) of his rights existed.

The other case in Terrell involves a policeman who shot at voter registration workers in broad daylight and drove them out of town at gunpoint last summer.

Since the cases have been filed, and are coming up for trial in Feb., people have begun to apply to register in Terrell County for the first time since the churches were burned last ~~summer~~ summer.

The Justice Department has also issued one hundred and fifty subpoenas connected with civil suits coming out of actions during the past year in about six local counties. They are the results of beatings, intimidation and harassment which occurred in jails in several counties where demonstrators <sup>from</sup> Albany were taken, in the office of the Dougherty Sheriff, on the streets.



We canvass daily, in Terre~~ll~~, Lee, and now, Albany itself. Records kept are  
time consuming, since they involve reports to the Justice Department, to our  
Atlanta office, to the press, to our lawyer; each of whom want a different type of  
material. Staff meetings usually are held at night, often all night. Not much time  
to think, or write. Because indiscretion could throw the whole project in jeopardy,  
discipline is military~~y~~ strict, particularly social discipline.

Now I must turn in. Thank you again.

Love,

Faith