

Dear Phil:

Don't scream when you see the length of the list. I figure that the big expense will be the stencils, and so a few more names wouldn't matter. Please let me know how people are responding as to sending you money to cover the costs of mailing. Let me know who has sent and who has not. Also, please run off a few extra of each letter in case I want to add someone else later on - and so we'll have some extras in case we need them for something. You can't imagine what a help this will be to me as otherwise I would find it impossible to correspond with anyone and would just stop writing letters.

Enclosed is a clipping from the NY Times. As I told you, one of these guys has already been fired. They are bastards. Am also enclosing the SSOC pamphlet. If you have any questions of them, address them to Miss Sue Thrasher Box 6403 Nashville, Tenn. - she was very prompt in answering my letter and you can introduce yourself as a friend of mine.

I also want to tell you about Arthur Kinoy (none of this should go out in the mimeo letter). Kinoy is something else. A brilliant genius, tiny, shy man with a nervous affliction - who sits down and thinks up the most brilliant legal theories known to the Movement. He is the brains behind the COFO Legal Defense Committee. What happened with COFO is that they are beginning to realize that their Establishment liberal friends like Joe Rauh and Company cannot truly represent their interests when things get down to the line. Rauh is fine for getting them in to see the people, but he cannot advocate what they want. So, Rauh gets the ax. The word I heard was stuff like: "now we've got to take it easy of Lyndon will choose Dodd instead of Hubert" et cetera, ad nauseum. So Moses and the SNCC people said: "Shit"! Anyhow they appointed a COFO Legal Staff, which is still really a paper organization, but the people on it (for the most part) are excellent. Kinoy; Kunstler - Kinoy's partner who tends to be somewhat arrogant and has personality conflicts with a lot of people, but is an excellent trial lawyer. Ben Smith - Guild lawyer from New Orleans. Indicted by Louisiana HUAC for "Subversive Activities", the SCEF raid, etc. Very capable man, and has the Movement's interests at heart. No matter what people say about some Guild lawyers still living in the 30's this is first of all not true for most of them and also that they certainly don't represent Establishment interests. Morty Stavis - Guild atty from Newark; did the work on the Seals case. Marion Wright - she is a recent grad of Yale, and completely under the domination of Mr. Greenberg and the NAACP Inc. Fund.

Kinoy feels that this is one of the most exciting developments in the Movement. I second this and in talking to SNCC people here it is clear that they understand this need very very well. ie. Yesterday Cordell Reagon asked why we couldn't bring some damage suits and I explained about Mr. Greenberg's attitudes in this matter. "Damn, we need our own lawyers". I suggested that it seemed ludicrous for them to be so caught up in realizing the necessity of local project autonomy and leadership coming from the field, and yet they do nothing about the one force above them which absolutely controls any proposed action. ie. If Greenberg doesn't want them doing voter registration in Baker County he simply tells them that no money will be available for legal defense for arrests there - so if you go into Baker County you will stay there forever. So the need is seen on the local level - lets hope that these people push things with Atlanta. The Committee of Pol Action for the 2nd Cong district can easily be the beginning of a COFO type operation in SW Ga. All this is being discussed now. Anyhow, as for the COFO legal arm - this is in keeping with the new concept of political independence in the legal staff. Policy is no political discrimination in face of violent opposition from CORE leadership (NY) and the Inc. Fund people. The COFO position is that the Movement needs its own legal apparatus - like the unions. The COFO legal committee has only one client - The Movement, and acts solely in the interest of this client no matter who gets stepped on.

That's about it for now. Take care,

Dennis