

January 6, 1965

Dear Phil:

Enclosed is the latest statement - this one written for SNCC to interest them in the project, at the request of Cobb and Ralph Featherstone. Each succeeding statement gets stronger and sharper - I see the ultimate statement calling for an overthrow of the system by pre-school children!

Despite is FINE! Coverage of the FSM magnificent, and the Posada pieces add greatly. Things are so cloudy as to news coverage we receive here that I cant tell whether your prediction was right or not. Please fill me in when you get the time.

Immediate news: Wendy met with the woman who is in charge of licensing Day Care centers in this part of Georgia. She's a young Cracker, but a paternalist - and Wendy played it just right. She is very sympathetic to the idea of a training center and even suggested utilizing a home in the Fed housing projects for a day care center also. She is also talking about Poverty Money, but I have serious doubts about that. I am beginning to see the War on Poverty much more clearly now, and what a shuck it is. Did I tell you that an organization called the S.W.Ga Area Planning and Development Commission got \$10,000 from the Poverty Bill to organize proposals for federal aid. I tried to figure out who this group is and I finally am beginning to see what is happening. This group is nothing more than a pre-existing set up of the chamber of commerce, and structure, etc. to entice industry to this part of the State. Now the City Commissions and the County Commissions are very heavy Birch, reactionary. Their public position is "WE DONT NEED FEDERAL HELP" and a whole lot of nonsens on how there is no poverty here, and how free enterprise can cure it even if there was any. But at the same time they dont wan to pass up anything if it is offered - so you create this agency (or rather you utilize one already created for a different purpose) They take the money and draw up the plans. The County Commissioners officially can be "CLEAN" of the whole deal and even issue statements scoffing at it - and still they are the people who decide where the money is to be put, etc. Very very clever. This is done to avoid the whole embarrassing problems that Goldwater faced when people reminded him that he would vote for Federal money to come in to Arizona to build dams, etc. These guys can have their cake and eat it too. Now, as for the Office of Ec Opp and the Poverty Bill itself: Years ago when people got restless you could offer them "outside" welfare to quiet them down; ie. the New Deal. This was done on a, "we will do it for you" basis. Now people (ie. those in Miss) are hip to whats happening and know that these wonderful programs are administered by local whites who will screw them nine ways so they are starting to do things by themselves and wont hear talk about what the govt will do for them. So the govt comes up with a new scheme. "You tell us what you want to do - yes you, the pperson in a state of poverty - and we will simply supply the cash - you carry out and adminster the program yourself, with all the trappings of democracy. Just sit tight for a while and wait for the red tape to be out. So

when you think about it, either way gets you the same result. You get a sapping of all initiative. People talk about wanting a place for the kids to play after school. The white community wont do it for them (WELFARE) and they know that, so they decide to get together and do it themselves. Then you interject the POVERTY BILL - "yes, a wonderful idea - organize yourselves draw up plans - and just tell us what it will cost. You dont need volunteer carpenters - we will pay them and this will be good for the economy - just wait a while until the bill is more clearly set up . And the people will wait and wiat. I can understand now how the thinking in Welfare Rights was completely right. It pisses me off how easilly I can get sucked in to believing that something can be worked out with the bastards and that maybe this isnt just one more scheme. Oh well. Now to figure ou t a way to make local people see it .

We are going to NY Jan 22-28 The Law Students are holding a conference in D.C. on the weekend of the 29th - 31st, so I thought we'd spend the week in NY and then go to the Conference on the way back to Albany.

Wendy wrote Murry Bob. Mina G sent a nice letter offering equiptment and is trying to drum up interest in NY. She is attempting to get her civil rights group to support Wendy in terms of "adopting" a SNCC person.

Best,