

May 19, 1965

Dear Phil,

A prompt reply to yours of May 15. I very much liked the way that Manas dealt with the N/S editorially - tho I am sure this is the first time any of us saw it as an alternative to racial or national identity - the phrase "quiet excellence" is really a beautiful description - seeing what Wendy has created (in terms of how the children who hang around the n/s respond to her, not so much the ^{reaction of the} n/s itself) I can appreciate certain qualities in her that I might not otherwise be conscious of - qualities, certainly, that I am lacking.

Duskin's clothing: "rice-Christian" is right! Have I ever written about this problem as it is one of the worst in many ways. Clothing comes in to the Movement office and the ministers - that disgusting pack of vultures - fight over it to see who carries home what. Next come the domestics who gather at the Movement office to be driven to work (when the Movement put the bus company out of business the ministers offered to drive the domestics) Now it is a profitable sideline for the ministers. So the domestics, who certainly have a better opportunity to get second hand clothing (Miss Ann has been doling out this stuff for years - either that or Susie Mae sees to it that something always "gets lost" in the wash) now come in and pick over theirs. And the tatters get thrown away or maybe some neally needy person is put in touch with the office at exactly the right time and he comes off with something he needs. I thought this was unique to Albany but have discovered it is universal. One of the workers in Miss said they now refuse all clothing because even in the strongest communities it turns the people into pigs. We found that one alternative was to turn it all over to the visiting teacher (who in Albany happens to be a pretty decent sort) and she sees that only the most needy get it. But the best solution comes from Clarence Jordan at Koinonia. They had the same problem with people coming out, getting into fist fights, grabbing huge bundles irrespective of size. So what they did was put it up for sale - for a nickle or a dime or quarter - but then people felt they were buying what they wanted and not being given shoddy charity. So we talked about this alot and we thought that the best thing to do is once we get the parents of the N/S organized into some kind of cohesive group - have Bettye (who is Negro) tell them that some clothing is available and we'd like them to arrange a sale of it with the funds to benefit the N/S, or even better - to be used for some specific parent program like maybe a trip on Sunday with the children.

Anyhow, I think that done that way it would be of real benefit and without the resulting problems of white folks handouts.

You won't believe what's happening with funds - on second thought you will because it is just as you predicted, only moreso. Not only did it catch on as a good idea which inspired alot of little people (I would guess that about 2000 has come in, with the average being \$10 or \$5) but also it caught the imagination of the foundations. No, not the disgusting big Ford or Taconic or those bastards who won't consider anything which doesn't have a budget in the hundreds of thousands with fancy salaries for executive directors and all that shit (and Wendy sent off to about 7 of these) but rather small foundations made up of real people who have gotten some money together and want to do good things with it - like Victor Rabinowitz's Fund sent \$2000 - and Artists Civil Rights Assistance Fund (which is really a front for actors and the like to contribute to SNCC and get tax deductions for doing it - and the guy who is in charge is a friend who is a lawyer in Victor R's office) sent \$2500. So we have "made it" and there is now enough for the N/S to run at least a year - and then we'll start worrying again.

Pictures: Yes we have pictures, but there is a problem. We have one set of 8 1/2 x 11 of about 20 pictures - done by my kid brother and taken by Wendy. Some are excellent - none are "fund raising" but are just soulful pictures of black children playing and hammering and building their building. The thing is my kid brother is very pressed for time but I will try to convince him to run off about 6 copies of each of the best and we'll send you a set.

DESPITE: Yes, you can publish the Cloke letter - please do, but let me suggest a couple of changes and also add to it the latest developments. Wendy will never write a newsletter but she is occasionally inspired to write a damn good letter which kind of brings folks up to date. The letter to Mrs. C is one, and she just wrote one to Ken Cloke ~~which is the only copy~~ and a similar one to Zippie & Dwight which continues events from the time the one to Mrs. C left off. I'm sending our carbon to Zippie & Dwight - PLEASE SEND IT BACK as its the only copy. Starting with the Cloke letter: 2nd para. delete the sentence which starts "We really dont have too much hope for all of this Poverty Bill money..." MIRACLES DO HAPPEN. Tho someone, I dont

know whether the Cracker, or before we go in town, tried to put a squeeze on by hiping Washington to Wendy's '63 arrest (vagrancy - which is the standard arrest term for a whore in the South) we wrote an explanation of the civil rights implications and nothing more came of it. And we got the Head Start funds.

Not the \$3000 she applied for as they cut out the whole training aspect of it, but \$2000. I begged her to pad the budget as I knew this kind of shit would happen - but we all learn. So we do have \$2000 which will pay for operations over the summer. Also, we convinced the city to let us have the 2 Negro grammar schools for the summer and another proposal calling for \$14000 for 90 children was submitted, and they sent \$15000 (they refused to let Carol be Coordinator and also be a Head Start teacher, all for \$84 per week so she has to hire another teacher for \$84 and can do nothing but "coordinate" for \$115).

In para 3 we mention one of SNCC's field secretaries. This doesn't have to be deleted - but as is so fucking typical, she has disappeared without a word, the leaving half her clothes in our closet. First she went to Montrie and then she was rumored to have married ~~Wixie~~ James Peacock (one of the Freedom Voices) and now no one knows where she is. All sorts of stuff is being donated (no I don't think you should put this in) like Betty is extremely beautiful and they went into one another place and the Cracker had eyes for Betty so he gave them all sorts of stuff at "second" prices; and some kid named Robert Mc showed up in Albany a while ago. He says he was at Berkeley for a year and active in the FSM. Check him out for me please. He is hanging around trying to work for SNCC. Anyhow he has relatives in town who are minor power-structure folk. The wife is a Page (ante-bellum family) and husband owns a big furniture place; occasionally he gets into a guilty bag and when he does he can be tapped. Bob called when the time was ripe and Wendy picked out a whole lot of furniture for the N's for free.

Page 2, first full para: to do something to solve this problem we will negotiate with Roy. If SNCC agrees to take on the responsibility of opening the N's at night and staying there (a big thatt problem otherwise) we will let them do whatever they want evenings and weekends - eg. freedom school or club house or whatever they want.

So add what you want from letter to Zip and D and return it.