

Sept 19

Dear Phil:

This will be the last newsletter that you will have to do. I have decided its just too much of a pain in the ass to feel this compulsion to write weekly - but more than that the list has gotten out of hand. I feel that there are people on there who really dont understand what I have to say (this comes from talking to several) or who get upset when I criticize Dr. King (I mean we all know he's a bastard, but we must maintain a solid front to our critics), etc. And because of this I feel I'm holding back in these letters and they are getting stilted. I also have the feeling that they arent only going to the ~~right~~ people on this list but they are being shown around by them to people who I dont feel should see them. So what I propose to do is to keep on writing you. Those people in the Bay Area who you want to show the letters, like Phil Davis, that is fine. Also some arrangement should be worked out with Ann so that she can see them - or maybe it would be better if she just does what she wants with the book as if the letters ~~was~~ were ending with this one. But ~~she~~ please call her and discuss this with her. I think she has a photostat machine so maybe she could just make a copy of each letter that I send you and then keep them to herself. ~~Another~~ Another reason I am stopping is that I get constant requests from people who I really dont feel should see them - but they heard from other people about the letters and want to be put on the list. This way no one can feel hurt or insulted - there just arent any more letters. I hope you understand this - actually its a better deal for you because you wont have the ~~my~~ responsibility of having to cut those damn stencils; and I will go on writing, but from now on the letters will just be for your benefit - I think I will keep on using the same style and documenting things that happen from day to day because I keep a copy and it will force me ~~me~~ to continue this "diary".

I'm returning Murray's letter.

I read the material from the Vietnam Day Committee, and dont understand your reference to Nuremberg in the letter to Murray which you sent me a copy of. I dont know what the other side of this controversy was, but when I look at the names of the Law faculty represented on the "other side" I instinctively side with the Vietnam Day Committee. Sherry is the worst sort of fascist swine - a former D.A. in Alameda County who just revised the California penal code - a real pro-prosecutor teacher of Criminal Law who loathed me and what I represented at the law school; Jennings is a businessman, a teacher of Corporations and not a very pleasant person. Heyman is the only one of the three who could be classified as a "liberal" - he's on the California Advisory Commission to the Civil Rights Commission and he raised hell with Mayor Yortk and Chief Parker in LA a couple of years ago. But the other two, especially Sherry, WOW. Is there anyone at Boalt on the Vietnam Day Committee? Anyhow, I'd be very interested in what you have to say about the Vietnam Day Committee as I am torn in my attitude towards them. They certainly do moronic things as exemplified by lying down in front of the train and TRYING TO GAIN SUPPORT FROM THIS. I have never had any use for most of the professional pacifists I have met and maybe their problem is that these types have suppressed any other voices in the VDC - but I am convinced there is a great need for strong voice against that goddamn horrible little war and they seem to be the only people around to ~~provide~~ provide it.

Dennis

September 19, 1965

Dear Friends:

I have decided to bring the newsletters to a close. This is mainly because it has gotten to be a terrific pain in the ass, knowing that each week I have to find the time to sit down and write one of these - and knowing that if I let it go one week it will be twice as much work the next week. More and more I have been letting this thing go until Sunday and then spending most of the day on it, instead of spending the time with Wandy. I will ask Phil to hold onto the mailing list however, and when some event occurs which I feel deserves and needs comment, then I will put out another addition - but the regular flow will cease.

I won't bother going ~~ix~~ into the time spent in NY other than to say it was a greatly needed rest, and both of us feel considerably better now. Just before we left for NY I remembered that I still hadn't done anything about Mrs. Domley's welfare ~~kampai~~ complaint. She is the old lady who lives across the street who makes lye soap and sweet pickles. The welfare people had cut ~~le~~ her old age assistance from \$19 to \$7 per month. I went over to talk to her about going down there the day we planned to ~~lave~~ leave for NY but she was very frightened and ~~axi~~ said to forget about it, that she didn't want to make any trouble. She was obviously afraid of losing the \$7 they left her. This, along with her pittance from social security, is what she exists on. So I went down myself to file an appeal or get a continuance until I got back from NY and would have the time to convince her to come down with me. When I told them I wanted an appeal form everyone got very shook - they assigned one of the officials to talk to me in a little room. After going through Mrs. Domley's file, and before I had even said anything, she announced that a mistake had been made and that the figures were computed wrong. She said that the case worker who had the file and had made the mistake had left the Department but that she would see that it was rectified. I wanted to know when. "Well, we're very busy, so I can't really be sure" - I told her I expected the mistake to be corrected by tomorrow or I would be filing an appeal to Atlanta. When I got back to town Mrs. Domley came over and told me that the woman came out the next day, was extremely appologetic, raised her to \$15/month, with an additional \$10/month to have her roof repaired, and told her that if ~~w~~ she had any problems at all with the amount of her check to please come in and see them, as that's what they were there for, and that she shouldn't have to take her papers to show to anyone else (me). Mrs. D. finally explained what I assume is the real reason her check was cut in the first place - tho the "official" explanation is a reduction of property taxes - she has a silver punch bowl and a couple of silver mugs - old pieces that were left to her by her mother. Their case worker saw them and told her that she should sell them as she should realize income from them which she shouldn't have to get from Welfare, and then offered to buy everything for \$4. Mrs. D. refused as she plans to leave them to her children as it is the only thing she has to leave to them - the woman got furious and left - the next day she got a letter telling her of the cut ~~w~~ in her monthly check.

After we were back in town a few days Wendy and Carol King had to go to Washington to see the OEO people. As usual, they are pulling ~~some~~ more crap with the War on Poverty. The Negro community in Albany organized the Dougherty County Resources Development Association to apply for poverty money after many months of fruitlessly trying to get the white power structure to start a group. After DCRDA was organized they continued trying to involve local whites by contacting every church and civic club in town, but to no avail. Finally DCRDA was given a grant under Head Start this summer to run two nursery schools, along with the grant Wendy got

They then applied to the OEO for a full scale War on Poverty CAP grant, which would be used for a tutorial program, recreation program, and full nursery school program for town. First it looked like they were going to get it. But then the local power structure got to work. They were told they couldn't be a full Community Action Panel as they weren't representative of the total community (tho they very clearly spelled out all efforts at being representative of the entire community). They were then told they could be a Single Action ~~Rate~~ Panel - which at first seemed like tricky wording for accomplishing the same thing; then the OEO representative in Atlanta came down and said that they could only get one fifth of the budget they initially applied for, which would only allow for two nursery schools, and both of them run on a minimal budget. The latest development is that the local power structures of a thirteen county area, working hand in hand with the federal govt, are setting up a giant CAP board for the area, excluding all but a few hand-picked Negroes, and will obviously be used to set aside the DCRDA. So that's how the War on Poverty is being fought here. Wendy and Carol went up to fight for the local group but to no avail. An official who shall remain nameless but who is quite high up told them very interesting things about the OEO. For example, Project Head Start which was probably the best program that was envisioned was too good in a way. Like alot of centers got started in Mississippi this summer and local people used them to have parents meetings first about their children, and then about ways to change things in the community...So Head Start as an independent grouping will be dropped. It has been milked for all the publicity that can be gotten out of it and contra to Lyndon's lies released to the press, Head Start will not continue this fall. Instead, you can apply for nursery school programs along with a full scale Community Action Program (tho nursery school programs will not be given priority). They are very fearful of having poor people represented on these Panels as they tend to ask embarrassing questions and want to see the money used for other than administrative purposes.

The other thing I wanted to comment on briefly is the LIE that I have been reading about the "wonderful complaine" to the school desegregation plans. It is a goddamn lie. The Federal Government is as indifferent to what is happening here as I was always convinced they would be. The various counties are submitting plans and then left to do whatever they want in the way of avoiding integration with no steps being taken by Washington. Complaints are met with the response that they don't have any money for field investigations - and the school boards know this. In Dougherty County they started the same old crap with the athletes - that they would be ineligible - only this time the school board says it is out of their hands as it is the Georgia High School Assn who decided it. So CB threatened further litigation and called the Ga HS Assn who immediately agreed that the policy was not correct and said that Negro kids who transferred would be eligible. But in the two weeks that elapsed several of the football players transferred back to the Negro high school; at present there is still one Negro kid who is out for football at the white high school. But the other counties don't have a C.B.King to threaten school suits. In several other counties that I know of, like Houston county, they pulled the same business with the athletes and kept them from transferring. In Thomasx County a man whose two children transferred to the white school was evicted, his house shot into and he was forced to move into the city (and then his children were thrown out of the white county high school because they were not county residents anymore - and now the white s city high school refuses to take them). In another town where 34 children had transferred, threats and intimidation directed at their parents caused all of them to transfer back to the Negro school. People from the Georgia Council on Human Relations whom

- 3 -

have been working on the school transfer problem were run out of Wheeler County by the Sheriff and told never to come back. In Mitchell County a man was beaten half to death because he transferred his child to the white school - the FBI is "investigating". The worst situation was in Baker County where over 160 children signed transfer forms. The School Board sat down with the Justice Dept and HEW people and a little deal was worked out - only 20 kids were finally allowed to transfer. This was after people on Welfare were told their checks would be cut off if they transferred their children, and people were evicted from plantations (owned by Coca Cola interests and those wonderful philanthropists, the Mellons of Pittsburgh), and threatened with eviction. When the twenty started school they were spit at, cursed and beaten. The teachers did nothing to stop it and then they went to the Superintendent of Education to complain he told them there was nothing he could do and they would be better off in the Negro school. As of last Friday there are only 11 kids left, all of whom are in elementary school, and the harrassment continues. So that's the "wonderful compliance" Lyndon talks about in the south Georgia area. I can imagine that its going about the same way in Alabama and Mississippi.

A while ago I wrote about a young Negro couple, cousins, who were stopped by a deputy sheriff in Baker County, forced into the woods where he kept them for several hours intimidating them and reading dirty books aloud to make them have an intercourse in front of him. One of the people who was working here with SNCC this summer wrote about this to a little newspaper in Vermont where she used to live. They published the letter and a few weeks later got a letter from a local law firm threatening a libel suit as the name of the good sheriff was besmirched. They would have to go to Vermont to sue and I can't imagine a jury there giving them a verdict but I guess this guy was worried as he sent a Boston lawyer down here to do some investigation. I spent a day with him tascking down people and getting statements. He is now convinced that they have nothing to worry about as truth is a defense to libel but I hope he can convince the paper ~~not~~ not to try and pay off, but rather take the damn thing into court.

Little Feelgood, who is supposed to be the son of Dr. Feelgood a noted root doctor of Albany, is in jail. He is charged with possession of stolen goods and CB is representing him. Feelgood is a very young guy who is in the airforce - tho he is also a mystic in his own right. He doesn't have much of an education but is damn well aware of his constitutional rights. When the city detectives came to his house to search for the stolen property he told them to get out and not come back until they had a warrant - which they did. Then they turned his house upside down but couldnt find anything. Meanwhile Feelgood sat in the corner with a bottle which had a little man in it. He had a long dialogue with the little man in which he asked him to please ~~ask~~ tell those cops he didnt steal anything, called them stupid mother fuckers, etc., but all of this is said to the ~~ask~~ doll so the cops really cant get too pissed off. They left but picked him up off the street the next day and put him in jail. They carried him to the detectives office about four times, finally they told him they only wanted him to sign a statement which said he didnt know anything about any stolen goods. Feelgood told them, "I'm not signing anything, pro or con, until I see My lawyer Mr. King". They never threatened him or pushed him around in any way, so I guess the Terrell suit has had some theraputic effect. We'll have a committment hearing on him Monday and unless they come up with some stuff and say t hey found it in his house there is no way to hold him.