

July 5, 1963

Dear Mom and Dad and Anne and Tom et al,

Received both letters this morning, and am grateful for the allowance check as I am hoping to get to Philadelphia next week end (visiting women and hoping to find some arithmetic textbooks, which we need ~~desperately~~ desperately). There are evidently a number of things I have not made clear in former letters, which I should have and thought I had. First, only three of us are currently living with Mrs. Richardson. The other eight or nine are parcelled out over the community. We are fed 1) out of the bountiful grace of our friends in whose homes we live 2) with donations received from all over the place because of the publicity the area has gotten, 3) by donations of food, mostly fresh vegetables from farmers in the area. Other than that we have a fund which we raised at school of about \$200 for emergencies and personal expenses, and possibly to help out on transportation at the end of the summer, which for me will probably be around the 20 august. I have been using Mrs. Richardson's laundry, i.e. washing machine, for clothes and have dried them in the sun, which if one stretches the point slightly, eliminates the need for ironing. Please pardon the stationary, it's the back of a handbill we used to weeks ago.

I have some interesting facts for you. Television shots of Cambridge were shown in West Germany a couple of weeks ago., and a profile of Mrs. Richardson appeared in London papers. Cambridge is the only community in the South to have mobilised 1/8 of the Negro population to demonstrate. Reggie Robinson became the first field-secretary for SNCC to deal directly with Bobby Kennedy, and boy is he proud.

Progress here has been slow, and it seems that the city council still has no idea of what they are dealing with here. Reggie said that he had never had to deal with men who knew less about what was going on. What has happened is that on Monday the council passed over the objection of CNAC, a charter amendment to the city charter which would ban discrimination in public accommodations. The trouble is that it is subject to public referendum which would certainly cause it to fail. This all comes after the Maryland Attorney General had specifically ruled that Cambridge could pass an ordinance accomplishing the same thing. But the slow progress has given us time to set up our project, and has brought success in other areas, Federal housing project, desegregation of schools, the hiring of a Negro interviewer in the employment office. The voter registration is now going full swing, and it is fascinating work, at least to the point where one gets sort of water-logged from talking to ignorant people. We are doing a community canvass on job skills, family income, etc., etc., and after a while it becomes very depressing. Next week tutoring starts. I have been assigned to an arithmetic class and an algebra class. Any pointers from you relatively experienced hands would be greatly appreciated, believe me. Will undoubtedly send detailed stories.

I was sorry to hear about Mrs. Gathany and Mrs. Hense. Tell me how they are getting along etc. Anne, as to your gropping out of honors, I don't know what to say except that Maybe it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all. Your dear brother is probably not going to get into honors even for one year. But I am sincerely sad to hear it, and I guess the only thing to do is to keep your chin up. When I see what goes on around here, I don't feel that we privileged types have any right to complain about anything

Lovefully

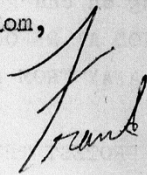
notwithstanding which of course we do. But working in this area is a very sobering experience. The lowness of the level at which it is possible to live is astonishing. I talked to a family of three who were living on two welfare checks totalling about \$90 per month. The two parents were both disabled (the father in an accident in a shipyard in Chester, Pa., in 1946 for which he has never received any benefit for being disabled) and the son, 18, is unemployed, though he hopes to get work in a pickle factory as soon as the cucumber picking is over. And they were living somehow. I talked to them for about an hour getting the information for CNAC and their opinions about CNAC and finally ended up promising to investigate the situation in the shipyard, a duty I will turn over to our Chester lawyer, Mr. Stanley Branche who is down here at least half the time. But one thing I find in many cases, although how often they just tell me what I want to hear is impossible to tell, is that they have a great admiration for Mrs. R. who after all did not have to become a leader of her people and a feeling that things really will be better for their children. One of the questions we ask is what they think of CNAC's methods, and the answer is usually that no one else has ever accomplished anything by any less militant methods.

But the consequences of all this folly downtown are deep and will hurt both white and Negro, though fortunately the whites more so, simply because they have more to lose. Industries don't want to have any part of the place etc., etc., and the town has probably been set back at least another five years. It's a tragedy, but maybe at least it will be insurmountable, as tragedy is.

I hope you have all already written to Senator Dirksen about the civil rights legislation, but if you haven't, please do. He is really the key man, as you know, and there is maybe a slight chance that he will change his mind about the public accommodations portion of the bill. I have written him of the importance of this act because of the psychological effect, which may be a bad word in political circles, that it will have, which the President seems to understand quite well. But Dirksen, insofar as the newspapers have reported his views on the subject, does not fully comprehend the situation of the Negro in the revolution he has created. He has not learned to "Think Negro" which is necessary in this day for any man white, black, or purple. End sermon.

Will write when something interesting happens.

, Yours in freedom,



My Plea to Cambridge.

They think they have you scared, because they're sending us away. but we aren't afraid; we're facing it boldly. . . . We expect to be out in three months, so please fight for freedom and let us know we are not going away in vain. So we say to you again, fight for freedom and we'll be back to help you as soon as we can.

Please sleep in at the Court House, and the jail, City Hall, and the regular places. Let them know that you are not afraid and we shall overcome, and sooner than you think. Of course they have treated us unjustly, but our minds are still on Freedom. PLEASE CONTINUE CURFIGHT.

DINEZ WHITE
Dwight CROWELL

COME

AND

PROTEST

TONITE - 7 p.m.
MEET AT LOT NEXT TO
BETHEL CHURCH
on Pine St.

Dinez and Dwight were convicted this morning on charges of delinquency. THEY WERE SENTENCED TO AN "INDEFINITE" PERIOD AT REFORM SCHOOLS. THEY HAVE BEEN FRAMED, IN ORDER TO SCARE US AWAY FROM PROTESTING. WE MUST CONTINUE THE STRUGGLE.

MEET TONIGHT AT SEVEN -- WE MUST PROTEST THEIR UNJUST IMPRISONMENT

(please pass this paper on to someone else -- thank you for your help)