

18644 Mendota
Detroit, Michigan 48221
April 16, 1964

Mr. Anzie Moore
614 Chrisman
Cleveland, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Moore:

Recently I had the privilege of hearing Carl Braden, field secretary of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., speak in Detroit. Of course Mr. Braden had many soul stirring stories to relate concerning his work. There are, of course, many diverse ways in which persons and groups lend their assistance to the struggle for integration, peace, full equality, etc. for all citizens and residents of our United States.

One minor, but perhaps helpful way, would be to send outgrown clothing to needy areas. Mr. Braden gave me your name and address as he thought persons with too little employment at distressingly low wages might be able to use clothing in good to fair condition. I asked some of my friends present at the meeting to gather up unwanted items and I called one or two others. I packed this and my husband shipped it out two days ago. Perhaps the six well packed cartons, weighing about 100 lbs. should reach you about the same time as this letter. The shipment should arrive in good condition as the cartons are very strong and well sealed. Please note the following re shipping:

shipped by: Roadway Express, Inc.

freight bill No.: 261 - 754017

Roadway pickup date: 4/14/64

to: 451

S/L or GBL. No. : BAY 85 C

Freight charges prepaid from Detroit by Joseph Bernstein, above address.

Number of pieces: 6 - boxes of used clothing. Insured.

I do hope that there will something in the shipment which Clevelanders can wear when registering to vote.

In this morning's mail I received a chain letter from a friend in Los Angeles asking me to send a check for one dollar made out as follows: "Paul B. Johnson, Trustee Memorial Fund of Family of Wedgar Evers," to be mailed to Gov. Paul B. Johnson, State Capitol, Jackson, Miss. I am to send this letter on to ten other persons and they in turn do the same, ad infinitum. I just telephoned a very fine lawyer here to ask his opinion on the above. He thought it had no value and that other actions would be more effective. He may be right. However, I do not believe that there is any ONE straight and narrow road to full achievement of civil rights and human rights. Ordinarily I think the usual chain letter

Annie Moore, Miss.

is childish and stupid. But this letter has an aspect to it that appears to be useful. This is expressed succinctly in the beginning of the letter I received which you are probably familiar with:

"This concerns the death of Medgar Evers in Mississippi.

There are several needs that follow his tragic shooting. (1) His family needs help;

(2) A large group of Americans needs to express its position on this matter;

(3) We need to say something effective to the Governor and the people of Mississippi."

If persons sending out ten letters would try to send a few of these to their friends in other communities, states and even foreign countries, the effect might be more widespread and the impact on the Governor more dramatic.

The first concern as to whether or not to act on this chain letter is that we would not want any loopholes, legally, whereby the Governor could hold up the distribution of the fund indefinitely.

In a week from now, the Michigan Friends of the South, are having an invitational reception for Dick Gregory. The donation from guests will be fifteen dollars per couple, or ten dollars each person. I do hope that the shipment will arrive in a few days from now because it would be very good if you would write to me acknowledging the shipment of clothing. If the contents will be of any service to persons in Cleveland, we should appreciate knowing. It might be helpful to have some women assist in opening the boxes, i.e., sorting them, because they have an eye for keeping two and three piece matching dresses, suits, etc. together.

If you and others of your associates think the chain letter idea has merit and if you know that the effect has already been felt it would be very good if you would write within the next few days to give me your reaction. I should like to share this and pass on whatever direct information you relate. The Dick Gregory affair was mentioned, because if you know of some positive effect of the chain letter, then I'd like to pass on this information at the reception. If your letter carries real news value of a positive and hopeful nature, then Mr. Gregory might be able to use some of the "latest, hot-line" news when he speaks at a public meeting in Cobo Hall in Detroit, sponsored by Friends of SNCC.

Your letter is anticipated. With very best wishes to you and other good folk in Mississippi, I am

Sincerely yours,

Reva Bernstein

(Mrs. Joseph Bernstein)