

September 26, 1964

Dr. Staughton Lynd
26 Court St.
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Staughton:

Under separate cover I'm sending you a rather quickly-assembled sample of Freedom School art. We took down the best of the stuff from the walls here in Jackson. The responsibility for the matting is mine, I'm sorry to say. That saran stuff stretches, or something. Anyway, despite my well-known patience, I couldn't wrap them smoothly.

I'm not sending them as souvenirs, although I would consider that a well-deserved gift. The situation is that we've had offers from several well-meaning people to sell these pictures. It's possible that Freedom School pictures could become a large-scale fund-raising operation. BUT, I'm not sure: 1. that it's feasible, just because a few Friends of SNCC, COFO, etc. say so; and 2. that it's a good thing intrinsically. I thought that sending up a trial balloon under the supervision of a sensitive observer could answer some of these questions.

If you and your Yale group would be so kind, I would like you to ~~take~~ show these pictures to a cross-section of local groups, to see their reaction. If the pictures could be helpful financially either directly through sales, or indirectly as a drawing card for other fund-raising activities, or if they just arouse interest in the project, I would consider it worth ~~making a~~ a large effort downhere to collect and select the pictures, recognize the artists, create an atmosphere of the kids supporting their own freedom schools, etc.

HOWEVER, if the interest is lacking, or if the reaction is wrong--oversentimental or some such thing, I would rather keep our treasures down here. There's a whole issue of unholy compromises and what you do with them down here, and I wouldn't want to compromise with movement philistinism, or whatever any more than with the national power structure. That's where the skilled eye comes in. The cuteness of children is a nice thing, but I think our Freedom Schools involve more than that, at least usually, so I would like to think that people were attracted to our pictures because of something deeper than that. I selected some pictures just because I thought they would appeal to a sentimental interest, others because I thought they had something intriguing artistically (or, in some cases, because Walt Sheppard, or Mike Saver, or some-

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body said he especially liked it). If it seems to you that some are more favored than others, please tell me. I hope this little research project will not interfere with activities planned. I would appreciate if you would NOT sell these, because we haven't really decided to go ahead with this, and a part of me really is troubled about making money from these pictures. This batch is just to sound out the idea. If you find enthusiasm for the pictures, and the right kind of enthusiasm, we'll arrange for an unending supply.

Liz has been in Batesville for several days meeting FS coordinators and orienting new volunteers. I'm going up tomorrow.(really today). We'll be thinking of you, and trying to figure out how the hell you managed.

Yours truly,

Lois