

October 5, 1964

Mr. Ernest T. Smith, President  
Rust College  
Holly Springs

Dear President Smith:

This last weekend I had an opportunity to talk with two faculty members of Michigan State University in East Lansing. Both of them have been very active in the civil rights movement, and both were interested in extending the role of the University in Mississippi. We talked about several projects, and during the conversation I mentioned Rust College. I told them some of the history of the College, although I know very little, and I told them how active you and some of the other members of the Rust College community had been in civil rights activity here in Mississippi. I also told them that you had been under some pressure for this activity, although I did not know the particulars. I really was a very poor spokesman for the College because I know so little, but they were interested, and I promised to write to you.

I'm sure they would like to know more about the history of the college, its present accomplishments and needs, and what the nature of any reprisals against the college might be. I was especially sorry to be vague about this, because it's bad business to make unsubstantiated accusations; all my information was from one conversation with Ivanhoe Donaldson some weeks ago, and a more recent one with Cleveland Sellers.

I also thought it unwise to discuss in great detail any particular steps that the Michigan State University could take, since I knew so little about the situation at Rust College. The only possibility we discussed specifically was that of some faculty exchanges between the two colleges.

I think these two men would be very appreciative if you would write to them about these matters and set them straight. They are Professor Robert Green, of the College of Education, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. and Rev. John Duley, whose address I have lost (sorry), but who is the president of the NAACP in East Lansing and who is a campus pastor at the University. I think you could have a rewarding correspondence with both of these men.

Yours truly,

(Miss) Lois Chaffee  
COFO

cc: Dr. Robt. Green