

November 7, 1964

Rev. Lawrence McGowan
Archbishop Stepinac High School
950 Mamaroneck Ave.
White Plains, N.Y.

Dear Father McGowan:

You are such a joy. We really loused up on your \$10, in a series of incidents which could only happen to COFO, but we will eventually use your gift in a worthy way. When I came in yesterday and saw those flowers, I was reminded of you all over ~~again~~ again. Thank you so much.

About the money: when it came, I thought it was pretty selfish for ME to pick out MY friends and go to eat a big dinner, when it was meant for the common good. SO I gave the check to Valita Chase, for safe-keeping, and talked the money over with some people. We can come up with some unity and maturity when little things like pressure ~~for~~ from the Pres., the Vice-Pres., the JD, the Congress and the FBI are concerned, but could we agree on how to spend \$10 for the common good.? Ultimately it was decided that we would spend the \$10 plus a little and cook a big dinner for everybody at the Freedom House--a Father McGowan Memorial Dinner. This was my plan because it had the sentimental value of reminding us of the party the night before you left. At the Freedom House, however, there was a battle between the forces of it's-our-house-and-nobody-else-can-come-in and the forces of it(s-our-house-and-we-want- whoever-we-damn-well-please-to-come-in. So the community cook-out had to be handled delicately. Gerry Wilson forgot for two days running, and then she had a fever, so the responsibility fell on somebody else, who went to McComb before the thing was properly discussed and decided. In the meantime, the Freedom Vote came, and we had to put it off until we could think of something else, besides canvassing. THEN, most disastrous of all, the financial secretary who was holding the money went on ~~xxxxx~~ strike because of a fight in the office, and now has gone home to Washington, D.C. and there's nobody here to give money! You can see what kind of a movement this is. With nobody to handle money here, the organization is in a bad shape, but fortunately most of the staff is at a 4-day staff meeting in Waveland, Miss. and that gives us a few days to get somebody. If we don't have anybody before they get back to the projects, though, there's going to be a riot.

Your flowers came at a particularly auspicious time, partly on account of the above. When things are more chaotic than usual, it's especially comforting to look at something pretty, and think about another world.