

November 13, 1964

Staughton Lynd  
26 Court St.  
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Staughton:

Thanks very much for testing out our paintings. I didn't have many illusions about their artistic merits, but I thought that perhaps they might ~~express~~ communicate something about themselves and maybe even Freedom School. I suppose that's what artistic merit is, though. Anyway, thank you very much for your opinion. Please do send the pictures back, unless of course some of you people who have been here would like them. At anyrate, please send back the painting with the ~~dark~~ blue background and the pot with the interesting-shaped balls. Everybody in the office likes that one, and I hated to give it up, except that I thought it showed more of the potential of the children than the crayon drawings.

Thank you also for the ideas about adoption. So far the the response has been slow; ~~kk~~ I think it's safe to ~~be~~ generalize and say that it's disappointing. But a few offers continue to trickle in, and eventually we may end up with a small, but wonderful, group of supporters. About Laurel: an ethical society or something in Boston wrote just today and asked to adopt the "Laurel project" because they ~~xx~~ knew David Gelfand. I referred them to Gwen, who responded very quickly. I think that this will turn out to be satisfactory to both groups, but I suppose you can't ~~a~~ tell on the basis of one letter. A group in Chicago recently raised \$500 for Laurel, too, which went into a building which we may have to give up after all. Are there any of your Spelman girls left in the state now, besides Gwen? If your heart isn't set on Laurel, I could recommend Cleveland, where Cynthia Washington is doing very well, and the community wants to build a center on Diane Bevel's lot, or Clarke County, where Linda Allenstein is just starting a Freedom School in a ~~xx~~ rickety old house, with no furniture, but already 25 students. But if you prefer to support Gwen's project, I'm sure that one Ethical Culture society is not going to be able to give her everything she needs, and she would love the contact with you.

On your suggestion to write to each group of volunteers, I definitely will take that on as a project as soon as the dust settles from the present goings on. We seem to move even more from crisis to crisis. I never thought crises could come so fast—growing pains are really a burden. Thank you again, counsellor.

Yours truly,

Lois