

February 18, 1965

Dear Group,

First, many thanks for the Valentine greeting and gift. You will be delighted to know, I am sure, that the money was used civilly. Five of us had dinner at Joe Strazi's Monday evening - Strazi's is (or was) an all-white restaurant very near the office. Ours was the first integrated group ever to eat in its dining room. It's also the only place in town that serves pizza, so we're all delighted that we can go there now (altho' Joe, the owner, seemed on the brink of an apopleptic fit the whole time we were there). The MSU, along with most of the staff, has really been pushing the testing of public facilities in the downtown area. Only one soda fountain manager on Washington Avenue remained adamant. Yesterday he took out all the stools at the fountain, along with the booths and tables that were in the back. Greenville's answer to Lester Maddox. It's really important that these little hamburger joints become integrated, rather than the fancy hotels and restaurants, since, up until last week, there was no place in the downtown area where a Negro could buy a coke and sandwich or go to the bathroom.

February 22, 1965

Just got back from a three-day stint in Canton and Jackson at various and sundry meetings. It was fun to see kids that I hadn't seen in a long time. Got to talk with Muriel for only a few minutes as she was leaving for Yellow Springs (Antioch College) for an orientation session. Everyone in Jackson, even people I don't know, seems to have one thing on their collective mind: to get me to come to Jackson to work there. I keep adamantly saying NO, as I am in the thick of work here and would hate to leave it all. (I also don't like the idea of just doing secretarial work again in that huge, & hectic office.) The meeting Saturday was on federal programs - mainly on the anti-poverty bill. It's amazing to find out how Miss. is planning to use this thing. It's Title II is about community action programs. The community can submit a plan for bettering their town: libraries, community, electricity, water, urban renewal, etc., and, with the help of funds, change the community. In Miss. it is evidently going to be used to further segregation. In Corinth, the only town here to submit a plan to D.C. (and subject to veto by the Governor), the crux of the plan is to move the Negro neighborhoods, of which there are presently three scattered about the town, into one big Negro neighborhood by means of urban renewal. If this plan were to go through, and the mayor of Corinth stated publicly that he thought it a marvelous idea for promoting segregation, with which Gov. Johnson heartily publicly concurred, then Miss. will be on its way to building the ghettos which the North is trying to get rid of. Sunday we all attended the FDP state convention in Jackson. It was really a rouser. Even Mrs. Hamer made it and spoke well as per usual. She still doesn't look well, but has been up in Cleveland, Ohio for several days speaking for the FDP.

February 23,

What a day yesterday turned out to be. We'd just get back from our daily picket at Greenville Mill, when the 2nd district director, Ed Brown, showed up to take me to our first state finance committee meeting. Didn't get home till about 4 this morning. The meeting was in Lexington and didn't start till late. Then we had to drive one girl back to Jackson before Ed brought me back here.

Hope you are recuperating well, Daddy. Say hi to Mom and Johnny for me.

Love,
Pat