

Department of Justice  
Washington

MAY 28 1965

Mrs. Claire Hartford  
325 Manley Heights Road  
Orange, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Hartford:

Your recent letter to the President concerning events in Alabama has been forwarded to our Division for reply.

The President appreciates your having taken the trouble and time to acquaint him with your views.

On April 6, a federal grand jury in Montgomery indicted three members of the Ku Klux Klan on the charge of wilfully conspiring to injure, harass, intimidate and oppress Mrs. Viola Liuzzo and Mr. Leroy Moton for exercising their civil rights as citizens of the United States. On April 22, a Lowndes County Grand Jury returned an indictment of first degree murder under state law. The first of the three men so indicted, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., stood trial on May 2. The jury failed to agree on a verdict and he remains free on bond until a new trial is held.

On April 13, the Dallas County Grand Jury returned an indictment of murder against three Selma men, charging them with the slaying of Rev. Reeb. They were arrested, released on bond, and now await trial.

-2-

The Justice Department maintains officials in Selma and will continue to record any violations of federal laws that may take place. As you may know, on April 16, a three-judge court ordered Sheriff Clark to cease using his posse, as presently organized in the handling of racial matters. It also ordered the sheriff to cease intimidating persons for the purpose of interfering with the right of Negroes to vote or to use public accommodations.

Sincerely,

*John Doar*

JOHN DOAR

Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division