

Bruce Hartford
#325
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L.A. 24, Calif.
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Dear West Family

I am sorry that I have not written sooner but, I am a lousy letter writer. After I left Selma I went to Atlanta for a couple of days and then on to Connecticut to visit with my family for a few days. I also went to the Worlds Fair and I did not particularly care for it. I then left for L.A. to attend my trial which was supposed to start Sept 12. When I got to L.A. they told me that the trial was delayed until October ~~12~~ 25 and it may be put off some more, so here I am, stuck in L.A. waiting for my trial when it is over I intend to return to Alabama.

I heard the other day that they acquitted Tom Coleman. It was no surprise of course but it still hurts. How can they let a murderer go when they know that he did it, and they know that his excuse that John had a knife is a lie (everyone here, in Alabama, in Washington and all over the world knows that that is a lie) how they can let him go, with out a tear, with out a blush, with out shame, with out pity, I don't know, Of course I do know how they can let him go, they can let him go because they are sick, so sick that they are hardly human anymore, so sick that they become as inhuman as a rattlesnake, no, I guess that I can't say that, because even a rattlesnake will warn you before he strikes, and a rattlesnake won't attack you unless you attack them first. What makes me even madder is those people in Washington with their lying faces and slick oily lying tongues. They say that it is too bad that he was let go, a real shame they say, but, they say, there is nothing that we can do, And so because they refuse to stand by the law John's murderers go free and his neighbor decides to shoot down some other civil rights worker, ~~xx~~ knowing full well that he won't be punished. Of course if Washington wanted to stop these murderers they could, with out any trouble. The FBI can catch ~~x~~ spies, bank robbers, forgers, smugglers, dope peddlers, communists (they are real good at catching communists), wetbacks, and bootleggers, but they can't seem to find out who killed the 4 little girls in Birmingham. The government says that they can not punish Tom Coleman, Leroy ~~Wilkins~~ Wilkins, Byron DeLa Beckwith, or the others because there are legal reasons. Yet when they want to get some body they spend any amount of time and money to do it and they don't care what laws they break. Look at all of the things they have done to get Jimmy Hoffa, or any of the other people that they didn't like. If you kill somebody who is trying to vote in Alabama you are not punished, but if you say that you won't fight in Vietnam you are thrown in jail for 5 years as some of my friends have been. I just don't know what to do. Sometimes I think that the best thing to do would be to take a gun and execute Coleman and the other myself, and other times I think that that is not the way, that we can't let those bastards make us as sick as them, that we can't let them drag us down into the mud with them. But I don't know, I wonder what John

would say, what the three boys in Mississippi would say, and what Jimmy Le Jackson, would say. I wonder ~~what~~ how many men women and children they would ~~gon~~ down if someone did shot Coleman? I just d don't know.

Justice here is no differant then in Lowndes County, all of these people who were arrested in the rebellion are getting unfairly punished by the police. over half of them are still in jail because they can't pay the high bail. All of the police who killed the Negroes during the rebellion are being let go with out a trial, they are saying that all of the killings that the police did were o.k. I have been working with the Non*Violent Action Committee here on ~~joy~~ training people for jobs. We have also been picketing a church that is being used to keep Negro school children segregated in the basement. I just got back from a march in Berkley Calif. to protest the war in Vietnam. The cops were all lined up across the road, just like in Selma. They even used tear gas on us, one girl was taken to the hospital.

Anyway write me and tell me what is going on in Selma, how things are going and things like that. If there is anything that I can do for you let me know. I saw Father Sam a couple of weeks ago, he is working in Watts, he was sorry that he e couldn't get back to Selma but he had to work in Watts.

Your Friend

Bruce Hartford

I heard that they were kicking people out of the housing project, is that true? are they going to kiek you out?