

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
wisconsin state branch



madison
milwaukee
waukesha

19801 W. Pinecrest Lane
New Berlin, Wis.
March 24, 1965

Dear Mary Sue,

Many times we wonder how the Freedom work in Shaw is progressing. In your note dated Feb. 1st, you said that federal investigation of the voting officials was to begin. Was there a chance to expose the real facts and prosecute these biased minds? We in our Waukesha group are eager for any news you might give us of your Freedom School in particular. You have received the letter from Mrs. Trewyn saying that she will send you a list of available textbooks, which you may check. This one Presbyterian church, and the Unitarian fellowship both have responded with book offers, and now we wait word about the availability of a truck going down once again. There will be clothing shipped by mail, on occasion and these \$15.00 checks each month-- hopefully.

Our money-making drive letter brought in about \$80. to date from individuals who are concerned about the Waukesha to Shaw project. We need continued news about Shaw in order to get more newspaper coverage, to help in our continuing of our drive for money. The news, of course, must depend upon your writing us. Please, let us know in particular how the School and the Voter Registration Drive are progressing.

Many students and clergy from this area have been in Selma during the past two weeks. Many people are eagerly watching the news to see if Wallace will move at all in the right direction. The next step, however, is for the early passage of Johnson's new Voter Rights bill. I wonder if it could adequately be enforced. Witness the noncomplacence with the past Civil Rights Law on such things as restaurant segregation-- experienced by you.

My daughter has asked if you weren't going to send a name for a pen pal. She wants so much to communicate with someone her own age. She is 15, soph. in h.s. She would write first if you could suggest a name.

We in the WILFF group send you our deep regards and wishes for your personal safety and of course for the working out of freedom down in Shaw.

Sincerely,
Madeline Fran

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM
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madison
milwaukee
waukesha

March 30, 1965
19801 W. Pinecrest
New Berlin, Wis. 53151

Dear Mary Sue,

I just heard that the truck going to Mississippi leaving last weekend did make the trip down there and back safely. It left the Shaw books and clothes at Clarksdale, and probably you have already heard this, and perhaps have received the things. I hope so.

You have never mentioned if you received the 6 copies of the U.S. Constitution which I sent about a month ago. Please include this in your reply, which we will hopefully publish in our Freeman, daily Waukesha paper. Perhaps you could also mention what the \$15. particularly goes for each month. We have said that it would probably be rent for the Freedom School, but definite word from you would be of great value.

We follow Martin Luther King's announcements and actions with greatest interest. The economic boycott would be the best weapon, I would think. Nothing hurts a person so much as to touch his pocket book. I only hope that he or his family is not martyred, for I am sure that many white men are after him.

Best wishes to all,
Sincerely, M. Fran

P.O. Box 547
Shaw, Miss. 38773
March 25, 1965

Dear Mrs. Franz,

Thank you for the copies of the U.S. Constitution. We're glad to have them, since we talk about the constitution so often.

I'm really sorry we haven't written you sooner. Bob started to write you but never finished, I found out, so now I'm getting this out.

A lot ~~has~~ has been going on here with meetings, freedom school, and a "new" community center being fixed up. It's actually a small house which some teen-age fellows have taken the lead in repairing. They've worked so hard, and now it's in full use.

We're also working in Choctaw, now. Meetings started there a week ago and there was so much interest that 46 people came the first time. ~~Interest is continuing, and they are now organizing their town.~~ Interest is continuing, ~~and~~ and they are now organizing their town.

Bob has left for the north to go to school, but there's another Bob here now. He's Bob Weil from Ohio, and a college grad. I'm sorry I don't know which college or how old he is.

About 25 to ~~40~~ 40 attend freedom school. We're also starting a f.s. in Choctaw and the kids have started a school for younger children in one area. I don't know how many people attend the afternoon classes.

I don't know the current figure on how many Negroes in the county can vote, but it shouldn't be significantly different from the 1960 census, unfortunately. In 1960 there were 612 Negroes registered and 4603 whites registered in Bolivar County which is 2/3 Negro, and whose voter age population is also 2/3 Negro. The 612 Negroes registered are almost all in Mound Bayou, an all-Negro town.

Something else which may interest you from the 60 census-- There are 2967 Negro households in which the total annual income is less than \$1000. and 299 white households with annual incomes less than \$1000. There are 2528 Negro and 570 white households with total household incomes between \$1000 and \$2000 in Bolivar County. This is the ~~most~~ most significant group of statistics as far ~~as~~ as telling what our county is like. (If fear and violence or threats of violence could be measured that would be the other important information.)

There are only about 25 registered Negroes in Shaw which is also predominantly Negro in population.

Denials have been the basis for some court action, but I haven't found out yet what was done beyond investigation, if anything. In any event, our registrar isn't under an injunction and we still have the difficult test.

About the new voting legislation -- I hope you all realize that it won't solve everything. I've just been studying it and it could make lots of improvements in what's going on here. But there are parts of it which don't seem so good. When we study it more we may ask you all to help get a good bill by writing people in D.C. No matter how good the laws are, even if they are implemented, they won't dispel all the fears. They do help even that, though.

Please excuse this letter. It's being written in about 15 installments here at the center between phone calls, kids' needs, etc.

The kids are pretty good today, so they're fun.

I'm not for sure (oops there's a little show, if I told you Bob and Eddie might be in Waco. or not. Well anyway, Bob was first misinformed of the starting date of school in Oregon, so midway on their trip, he had to rush straight on to the west coast, and Eddie is coming on home since his mother is ill.

We're always appreciating your help, and love to hear from you too. Oh, if there's anyway of your getting low cost pencils, we need them in quantity. Any will help.

I hope everything's going well for you there.

with love,

Do you need pencils?
Do you need pencils?