

COFO Community Center  
P.O. Box 547  
Shaw, Miss. 38773  
8/2 Nov. 2, 1964

Dear Mrs. Franz,

I was glad to hear from you again. I'm sorry I misled you about voter registration. We haven't been doing voter registration during the last two weeks because we have been concentrating on the Freedom Vote. To vote in this, one needn't be registered because to register in the Freedom Party one must naturally give their name. People are afraid of losing their jobs, so many aren't willing to sign.

The Vote has been going very well. We are now in the last day of it and have over 600 who have voted in this area so far. So far 42% have been afraid to sign their names on the books! They may vote my number to protect them.

There are four permanent polling places in the town of Shaw, and we use mobile units in other areas which are too rural for that to be practical. We are also using mobile units to let those who are old or disabled to vote in their homes.

We're very pleased at the progress of the Vote.

To answer your question, when I get no check (and I have had none yet) I live off some money given me at the beginning of the summer. I had hoped to fly home for a short vacation, since this work demands a break after this long. Now I think I'll either go by train both ways or one way and fly the other. I hate to be away from the project long.

Indianola, which is just 13 miles from here, is pretty hot now. The Klan is pressuring the Citizen's Council, and they're making life very difficult for everyone in the movement there. Most of the staff, if not all of them, are in jail now. They're charged with leafletting without a permit. This is an obviously unconstitutional law abridging the right of free speech and press, and besides that even if it were legal, the authorities never give permits for anything to be distributed by us. In Shaw, we've just gone ahead and used leaflets and flyers. We can't operate at all effectively without these, since people have no phones, there's no Shaw newspaper, no radio station to announce things. We don't think the charges would stick even if we were arrested. These are chances we have to take, that's all. Of course, lawyers are working on getting this law declared void.

I must get out to some farms to check on votes.

19801 W. Pinecrest Lane

New Berlin, Wis. 53151

November 6, 1964

Dear Mary Sue,

Your first letter has been read by many many people, in all sorts of gatherings where I have been. As I wrote before, it has helped us in the details of planning how we could go about helping the Shaw community. Most of the pictures which you sent are carefully mounted on a large poster, and basic information printed with each, all to tell of the Waukesha to Shaw project. This poster is in the front hall of the YWCA in Waukesha. I will enclose the clipping from the Waukesha Daily Freeman, which appeared last week.

Today came your second letter describing the good beginnings you are making in the Freedom voting. There would have been little use for the negroes to suffer deprivation by trying to actually register, especially since only Goldwater's name appeared on the slate. It is good to show them the meaning of a free election via the Freedom Democratic party. Has there been white opposition to this campaign in Shaw? Many people have asked me what percentages of the population are negro and white? How do the negroes make their livings?

We have assembled the clothing in one member's home and next week should have definite word about how it can get to Mississippi. If we can put it on a Mississippi-bound truck from Milwaukee, we may do this. Perhaps it will have to reach Shaw via Jackson.

However, there is a possibility that there may be another solution for getting the many fine library contributions which we have received. <sup>Let's see</sup> One of our members, who is a woman dedicated to peace and freedom, surely, has said she wants to come herself to Shaw with the gifts. There are of course hurdles to cross, and I cannot say at this time if it will positively work out. I notice that you are soon to take a much-needed rest. Do you have any idea of the time when you would go? I am sure that Mrs. Wilson would want to come when you are there. If you could give us word about when you would be away, it would help us with our planning.

The jailing of the COFO workers in Indiana is surely ridiculous. It makes one wonder how Mississippi could be considered to be part of this United States. Such bigotry will only die hard. Can this happen in time? Do you feel as much hostility right there in Shaw? We hadn't thought about the facts that no radios, newspapers or phones were there. How hard it must be to communicate properly.

Please do let us know of your personal plans, as the time comes when I think

we can get the materials to your group. Thank you for your prompt reply just received. There are many prayers for your safety and success in the work in the hearts of many of us here. We want now to translate these thoughts into something concrete for you.

Sincerely,  
Maxine Franz

Mary Sue,

I have just copied the contents of most of your two letters and am sending them, along with an explanatory letter, to the editor of the Waukesha Freeman, asking that they be printed as a followup of the good article which appeared last week. I do hope that these will be published. The word must be spread to larger areas-- people haven't thought there was a good enough reason for a northerner to get into Mississippi affairs.

M.F.

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



madison  
milwaukee  
waukesha

19801 W. Pinecrest Lane  
New Berlin, Wis.  
Representative CD, 1984

Dear Mary Sue,

I am enclosing the newspaper articles concerning the safe shipment to Greenville just accomplished last weekend. I had hoped that the truck would stop on the way at Shaw, but it was deemed prudent to make just one central stop. All of the Waukesha to Shaw boxes were on that truck, along with many prayers and good wishes! I understand that the COFO workers in Greenville, who number 13 or so, and who have cars at their disposal will be bringing boxes over to Shaw. All are labeled with their name and the kind of contents of each box. So, how we hope that they have started coming to you. A shoe merchant in Waukesha has said that through the publicity, he learned for the first time of the danger of a truck going into Miss. and he would be reading <sup>with</sup> great interest, for his donated shoes were on that bus. He says he will continue to save shoes for the people of Shaw. Now we want to try to build up some money to send to help in your work there. We spent the \$25. we had collected for the payment of the transportation.

Did you get home to Oregon? We really do await word from you. How we hope that you are safe and seeing result results of your efforts. The decision of 650 influential people in McComb to recognize law and order would be heartening news to you.

Sincerely,

*Maine Franz*