

N. A. A. C. P. LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.

10 Columbus Circle, New York, N. Y. 10019

JUDSON 6-8397

October 11, 1965

Mrs. Kenneth F. Montgomery
875 Bridlewood
Northbrook, Illinois

Dear Lucy:

Without fail, you can expect to hear from me each year about this time! We are in the process of organizing the 1965 fund-raising effort for the Legal Defense Fund in the Chicago area, and I am writing today to hopefully re-enlist your assistance and support.

This year we are faced with a difficult problem (not unlike the period following the 1954 decision on schools). Many people have begun to believe that the passage of the Civil Rights Act; the Voting Rights Bill; and Lyndon Johnson singing "We Shall Overcome" on television has solved the problems once and for all...and that the need for the Legal Defense Fund is no longer urgent. The fact is, of course, that this very legislation has caused a fantastic increase in the workload of the legal staff. A great portion of the job of guaranteeing enforcement of the Civil Rights Act (not the Voting Bill) has fallen on our shoulders, simply because nobody else can or will do it. To illustrate:

- 1.. We have filed 230 fully investigated complaints of hospital discrimination to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (they have initiated no investigations on their own) since the passage of the Act. As far as we can determine they have investigated about 20 of them and found them valid...but no funds have been cut off.
2. We have filed over 700 fully investigated employment discrimination complaints with the Equal Employment Commission, but they haven't done anything about them yet. The Act gives them only negotiation powers, however, so all of these will come back to us if the negotiation fails, and suit must be filed.

I could continue listing other areas, but I know you are aware of the nature of the problem...and the fact that if there isn't some enforcement of the legislation, it will provide simply another source of frustration for Negroes who hoped this would be the answer to their problems.

Mrs. Kenneth F. Montgomery

-2-

October 11, 1965

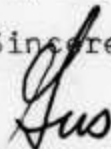
This "new look" in the civil rights struggle created increased demands for broader and more financial support than we have ever had before...at the same time that people are assuming the time has come for us to fold our tents and silently slip away. In order to resolve both of these problems, we are trying to re-enlist all of our previous Sponsors in Chicago, and to enlist at least fifty new ones this year. (You will remember that each Sponsor agrees to try to give and/or raise a minimum of \$1,000.)

This letter comes to ask if you will serve again as a Sponsor as you have done in the past...and whether you would host a small luncheon or other type of meeting between now and mid-November to which you might invite several prospective Sponsors and/or donors. At such a meeting, I will be able to tell the entire story and hopefully enlist new support.

Some of our past Sponsors have already made plans for such meetings, and this has been our most effective way of getting "new blood" in the past. As a matter of fact, I will be in Chicago October 13th thru 15th to speak at three such luncheons and two dinners. My guess is that there will be between 8 and 12 prospective Sponsors at each.

Mrs. Rose Finkel is serving again this year as our local coordinator, and is available to assist in any way she can. I do hope you will give serious consideration to both of the requests contained herein. I will call you when I get to the Windy City. Please give my regards to Mr. Montgomery.

Sincerely,



Gustav Heningburg

Mrs. Finkel can be reached at 123 West Madison Street. (263-4729)

Re: The enclosed N.Y. Times reprint... as if we didn't have enough to do already. Marion Wright is handling these cases (I think you have met her).

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The "Committee of 100," a voluntary cooperative group of individuals headed by Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers has sponsored the appeal of the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. since 1943 to enable the Fund to put into operation a program designed to make desegregation a reality throughout the United States.