

BRUCE HARTFORD
C/O S.C.L.C.
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SELMA ALA

3/66

DEAR BOBNA D DORTHY

I AM WRITING YOU TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT I AM DOING AND WHERE I AM. I WILL BE GETTING MY MAIL AT THE ADDRESS IN THE UPPER CORNER. I WILL BE WORKING HERE IN ALABAMA UNTILL AFTER THE MAY 3RD PRIMARY. AFTER THAT I MAY BE TRANSFERRED TO SOUTH WEST GEORGIA. MOST OF THE WORK THAT I WILL BE DOING UNTILL THEN HAS TO DO WITH THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. WE HAVE A NUMBER OF NEGRO CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY AND WE ARE CONCENTRATING MOST OF OUR EFFORTS ON HELPING THEM GET ELECTED. THIS CONSISTS OF SETTING UP PRECINCT, WARD, AND BEAT ORGANIZATIONS, AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS ONE HAS TO DO IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

ONE OF THE INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT THIS ELECTION IS THAT THE ELECTION LAWS PROVIDED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (ALL WHITS OF COURSE) CAN DECIDE THAT A PERSON WHO ONE THE PRIMARY IS NOT SUITABLE TO RUN X IN NOVEMBER AND CAN GIVE THE NOMINATION TO THE RUNNER UP. BECAUSE OF THIS AND THE POSSIBLILITY OF ELECTION FRAUD AT THE POLLS WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO GET CANDIDATES NOMINATED AS INDEPENDANTS AND AS THIRD PARTY CANDIDATES. ANYWAY IT IA ALL PRETTY CONFUSING.

SORRY THAT I AM SENDING YOU A CARBON COPY LETTER BUT THE TYPERITER HAS NO RIBBON AND SO WE PUT A CARBON PAPER BEHIND A BLANK SHEET AND USE THE CARBON PAPER AS A RIBBON. I MIGHT AS WELL BUT IN MY TRADIONAL (AND NECESSARY) APOLOGY ABOUT MY TYPING AND SPELLING (THAT THE WAY IT GOES).

AS IT LOOKS NOW I WILL BE SPENDING MOST OF MY TIME IN SUMTER COUNTY, THE 3RD POOREST COUNTY IN ALABAMA (72% OF THE FAMILIES THAT LIVE IN SUMTER EARN LESS THEN \$3,000 A YEAR). WHEN WE BEGAN TO WORK SUMTER ONLY 5% OF THE NEGROES WERE REGISTERED TO VOTE, BY NOW THEY HAVE A SLIM MAJORITY OVER THE WHITE VOTERS. NEGROES ARE 76% OF THE POPULATION. AFTER MUCH PICKETING AND DEMONSTRATIONS THEY HAVE JUST ENDED A SUCESSFULL BOYCOTT OF THE WHITE MERCHANTS IN YORK ONE OF THE TWO LARGE (POP 2,00) TOWN IN SUMTER. ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE BOYCOTT WAS A MEETING WITH THE MAYOR (SUMMIT CONFERANCE) AT WHICH TIME THE MAYOR SAID "BOY, YOU REALLY HURT US." SO SAID MAYOR W.T. GRANT. ONE OF THE BIG QUESTIONS THAT REMAINES TO BE ANSWERED IS HOW MANY OF THE NEGROES THAT HA HAVE BEEN REGISTERED HAVE BEEN INTIMIDATED INTO NOT VOTING AND HOW MUCH RETALIATION THERE IS GOING TO BE AGAIST THOSE THAT DO TRY TO VOTE.

WELL I AM GETTING PRETTY SLEEPY NOW SO I WILL HAVE TO CLOSE THIS LETTER, I WILL WRITE YOU AGAIN SOON. I GUESS THAT I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE, AS USUAL, BROKE AND THAT WE NEED MONEY.

YOURS
BRUCE