

Bruce Hartford  
819 Pearl St.  
Grenada, Miss.  
Oct. 9, 1966

The Hon. George Brown  
Rep. from Calif.

Dear Mr. Brown

I am a field worker for Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference. I have been working in Grenada Miss. for the past 4 months. Before I came south two years ago I lived on Hamilton Way in Los Angeles Calif. (Silverlake dist.), which was in your district. I am writing to thank you for your statements in regard to the violence directed against Negro children attempting to attend the formerly "white" schools of Grenada. I especially appreciate these statements in a time when the cause of civil rights and human dignity is not as popular as it once was. As you probably are aware the Federal Government arrested 17 persons implicated in the violence, of those 5 have been indicted. Unfortunately this action, as usual, came too late. There were originally over 300 Negro students who signed transfer forms to go to the formerly "white" school. After a quite campaign by segregationist forces to threaten, and intimidate parents (especially with loss of jobs), capped off with the organized terror of the first two days of school, and followed by increasing harassment within the schools of those children who are going, there are a bare 100 left attending the "white" school.

It has always saddened me that in so many cases the Federal Government appears to require the pressure of national publicity before it takes forceful action. It is possible that many of the children injured would have never been attacked if the Federal Government had moved into a case that occurred in July of this year. One night two lawyers working for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and a U.S. Community Relations Service man were standing outside Belle Flowers church-movement headquarters when a white man began to fire on them with a sub-machinegun. Fortunately they were able to escape. Later that evening (after threatening a local white lady and her children with the machinegun) the man was arrested with the loaded machinegun still in his possession. He was later acquitted of all charges. Although it is a Federal offense against possessing a machinegun he was not charged by the Treasury Dept, that is who the F.B.I. man I talked to said would have to handle it because it wasn't in his jurisdiction.

I do not know if you can do anything about the O.E.O. cutting off the Child Development Group of Mississippi's funds, but I strongly feel that this is one of the most odious sellouts of the principles supposedly underlining the "War on Poverty".

The C.D.G.M. was one of the few groups that I have ever seen that allowed the poor to have substantial voice in the project. The new group -Action for Progress--will not be so constructed.

I am sorry that I have taken up so much of you time.

Thank You for listening

Bruce Hartford

P.S. I support anything that you can do to end the war in Vietnam. By this I do NOT mean any sort of escalation.