

909 Reden Street
Ruleville, Mississippi
December 18, 1962

Jim,

We are trying to get other information about what happened to cause the police to stop the students in the first place. I hear that earlier that same day Dec. 17, some Negro boys and girls were passing by the Delta Theatre in Ruleville and some white boys had picked at them, the Negroes yelled back at the white boys and the white girls working in the theatre called the police, these boys and girls had gone by the time the police arrived and he just stopped the first Negroes he saw and these happened to be the students arrested.

The police here are noted for harrassing and intimidating Negro students as well as adults. The old people tell all kinds of things that the police have done to keep Negroes in their place.

To me this is a very clear denial of equal protection of the law, I think also that an immediate investigation should be made, and if possible a suit be filed against (C M Durrrough) the mayor of Ruleville. Unless Negro Citizens can feel safe in the hands of the law in their own communities, then what can they expect elsewhere.

On December 18, 1962 The Freedom Singers were in Ruleville, a car that seemed to be a brown 56 Ford fired several shots from about a hundred yards or more toward the church, no one was hurt, the pellets hit in the yard of the church, only the workers know of this we didn't want to frighten the people away, at the same time whites were shooting firecrackers so no one noticed.

Charles R. McLaurin
Sunflower County, Miss.
(Home of Sen. Eastland)