

NOV 19 1964

BARKIN, HERMAN and ASSOCIATES

PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL

November 18, 1964

The Honorable Gaylord Nelson  
United States Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am a long-time supporter and admirer of yours, and consider Wisconsin fortunate to have a Senator as articulate, intelligent and aware as you. However, like most voters, I have to be motivated to write you.

My motivation now is to ask you to use your considerable influence to help better conditions in the South, particularly in Mississippi. I know that I don't have to tell you of the closed society there; the constant harassment of citizens, both white and colored, who try to take the Constitution seriously; and the ineffectualness of the F.B.I. against the resistance of local law-enforcement agencies.

It is ironic that we read and approve of the U.S. military helping East Berliners to freedom while at the same time we tolerate an invisible, but equally effective, wall dividing the citizens of one of our own states.

I am sure thousands feel as I do, and hope that you will help to show a watching world that the laws guaranteeing equal rights to all are more than election promises.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) G. F. Grombacher

FG/cs



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Mississippi &  
F. B. I.

November 25, 1964

Mrs. G. F. Grombacher  
Barking Herman and Associates  
735 North Water Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Fannie:

Thank you for your letter of November 18. I appreciate your kind comments but I have grave doubts as to whether they are justified.

I certainly agree with you on the disgraceful conditions in Mississippi and I sincerely wish that I had some simple, immediate answer to the problem. For many months now, since the summer project first began in the South, my staff has been in almost constant contact with the Department of Justice. We have sought detailed reports on all of the acts of violence that have been committed in the South and the response by the Department of Justice and local officials to these attacks. We have exchanged numerous letters with the appropriate officials and I like to think that in some way we have stimulated a greater degree of concern than there would have been otherwise. I will include a copy of the most recent letter I received from J. Edgar Hoover as a result of my continuing concern over this matter.

To a limited extent I do understand the problems facing the Department of Justice and the Administration as a whole. If there ever is to be any permanent solution to the racial ferment and the collapse of law and order which has occurred in Mississippi, the sending of large numbers of F. B. I. agents or the occupation of the state by military troops would probably retard such progress and perhaps preclude it forever. There do seem to be some signs of genuine



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progress in cities such as McComb and in Birmingham, Alabama. The President and the Department of Justice are the only ones in full possession of all the facts and also with the authority to act on this problem. Concerned as I am, it is difficult to say at what point their patient steps should be abandoned in favor of more drastic action.

It is my hope that the next session of Congress will take a long, hard look at this program, will ask for detailed progress reports from the Justice Department and the new Civil Rights agencies, and will do whatever it possibly can to restore American justice to Mississippi.

It is good to know of your concern on this matter and to know that there are citizens who will support forthright action when and if it becomes necessary.

Sincerely yours,

GAYLORD NELSON  
U. S. Senator

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Enclosures



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