



UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION

Panama, Florida

USS TWEEDY DE 532

Dear Mr Allen,

Many times I have said to friends and members of my family that, along with two or three naval officers I have served with, I have more respect and admiration for you than ~~any~~<sup>the</sup> other people I have ever known.

The other night I heard your testimony over the radio, and several officers said what a fine and courageous statement it was. This caused me to do some thinking —! Having lived in all parts of the world, and since my children have come to respect people for what they are regardless of race, color or creed, the race problem has not caused us great concern.

But people like us should find a place where we can help in this cause. We have failed to support people like you who have the courage, intelligence and ability.



The best answer, of course, is to find the place in our own community and make an effective effort. Those who have the feeling of love and respect for all men often say the words, "but do nothing about it." We talk about love and the Christian way of life, and we are spared the hardest experiences because there is no controversy in our immediate fellowship about the basic issues of social justice. If we are honest, we have never, perhaps, found ourselves confronted by an issue so lacking in ambiguity. Yet, we talk; but what do we do?

I want you to know that I think you are "doing things", and along with people all over the country I have great respect for you.

My prayer is that I will have the courage to do more for this cause. The situation changes so fast, with bewildering speed, and tactics lead us onto unfamiliar, and sometimes uncomfortable, ground. I thank you for your fine example.

Sincerely,  
Elliot Hellems