

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

Mr. Vaughn of Pittsburg Civic League asked me to write you a letter, thanking you for coming out to see him. You will receive it later. I just wanted to tell you what a good thing it was--your coming out. You always do all you can to help but there are circumstances you don't know anything about that made this doubly a good move.

As you probably know, EOA is trying to force the City to turn Model Cities over to them. They know it is just a matter of time for EOA and want to insure keeping their jobs this way. This is what is behind their charges of "no citizen participation". John Hood is helping them because he gets votes by getting people jobs at EOA. The Center Directors in the "Model City" area are meeting with John a couple of times a week--at the Southside Day Care Center (the EOA nursery where he has an office). They are really stirring people up against the City---the people don't know what it is all about--they just do what they are told. The latest development is that EOA Centers are working on voter registration---I am in charge of it here and at a staff meeting I remarked that it was hard to get people to come register in a non-election year. Terrill told me I was negative thinking. To tell them that the aldermen and representatives in this area weren't doing anything to protect them from Model Cities--that this meant their homes would be taken--and for them to come register so they could vote new aldermen and representatives in next year. We really had it^{just} after the staff meeting was over--I told him I didn't appreciate the references to you, Hugh and G. D.--that he didn't even live in this part of town and we resented people coming in trying to run our politics. Also, that he didn't even know when the elections would be held, as the next City election would be in 1969. He told me that EOA was the biggest vote getter in the City and EOA could make or break any politician because the people in the areas served by EOA would vote for anybody they were told to. After a few more words, he threatened

to fire me for disloyalty to EOA. I told him I owed my loyalty to the City and to the City Administration and if he could find any conflict in that with the EOA operation--to go ahead. Things haven't been too pleasant since. Meantime, Eliza Paschall complained to Mrs. Crank, who is Terrill's Supervisor about the business about the phone calls--said she thought I should file charges with the Community Relations that I was being discriminated against. He jumped me about this too, but when I told him Mrs Paschall was not the only one complaining about the phone--that John Greer had complained to Emmerich--he calmed down. John Greer, who I am close to in the Democratic Party, is on the board of EOA. I take my complaints to him--since this way Terrill can't claim political pressure. It is terrible the way the three remaining white girls are treated here---but I am not going to quit until I get ready---where else could I draw a good salary for doing about an hours work a day. I run the entire department--there were three of us in Housing originally--I am the only one left and I still don't hurt myself working--which shows how over-staffed the Centers are. I have good work habits, I get along with the other employees, and I respect supervision--so if he fires me, he is going to have to come up with some pretty good charge.

I have checked up and found that this bit about the Aldermen not helping the people about Model Cities is true at all Centers--this is what the people are being told. My idea of what EOA should do is to work with the City--but all they are doing is encouraging people to fight it! When I hear all this it really burns me up. Especially when the criticism comes from a Vista volunteer--all they do is stir people up.

I don't want any of my friends to get mixed up in my personal problems, but something should be done about the breach EOA is creating between the City and the people in the Model Cities areas.

I have talked to G. D. and told him to keep in touch with Mr. Vaughn, Mrs. Billingsley and Mrs. Wright---they are the leaders in Pittsburg and while they are on the Advisory Board of EOA--they are not fooled by it. They all beg me to stay

every time I threaten to quit because they say it is the only way they have to know what is going on. Most of the Advisory Boards go to meetings and agree with all they hear--but not the Pittsburg leaders. As proof of the poor communication --most people would have gone to EOA---Mr. Vaughn came directly to you with his problems, and all the "street corner hanger outers" have been praising you ever since--because you bothered to come out! These are good people in Pittsburg, if the west side negroes would not come out here stirring them up. I have good influence over all the leaders but I cannot get them to believe anything against John Hood. Something needs to be done to stop him from knocking the City however.

I had some phone calls from some of the negroes in the Democratic Party with me--telling me what all they had heard about the negroes "going after" the Wrens Nest until they changed their admittal policy. With Calvin Craig meeting in West End, I figured it would really cause trouble if the negroes started breaking out windows and storming the doors as they were threatening to do. I discussed this with Irving Kaler and made the motion that the Community Relations ask the Wrens Nest to change their policy. Don't know if this will help, but figured it would show good faith on our part or as Helen Bullard puts our movements "act as a aspirin towards helping the headache."

I really enjoyed seeing Richard Freeman in action at the Community Relations meeting last week. Concerning this Dixie Hills mess, he really pinned down some of the people who claimed they witnessed "police brutality"---when he got through --all they knew was what somebody else told them! He is really good in this job and the best police committee chairman we have ever had.

Mrs. Leftwich told me you had to go back into the hospital---hope you are feeling all right now. Take it easy, cause we can't get along without you.

Mary

Terrill backed down on the phone calls---I can have incoming calls--I just can't make any!