

Dear Mom and Pop,

I really needed to talk to you, even though I don't think there was much for either of us to say. I'm sorry I didn't get to talk to Pop, but I just felt that I had to call when I did. I'm depressed for no real reason, I guess, except that I know I am reacting to a very discouraged feeling I had this weekend. I shouldn't take needs out on you, but it sure is good to know that you are there, when I need to talk to someone away from here. There isn't anyone I can talk to in any depth here.

I hadn't heard anything about John Perdom. We aren't kept too well informed, the job of keeping track of us is more than enough to keep the Jackson office busy. Anyway, thanks for telling me. About moving him somewhere else; of course, he might be more valuable somewhere else, also safer, but in America he is probably one of the few people who can keep the movement going. And once the movement appears to weaken, what is happening now will seem like a quiet game of checkers between two people who don't care about winning. Weakness invites reprisals, where strength seems to be the movement's only ~~insurance~~ safeguard. This is why we are so worried about what will happen when we leave. I might be tempted to stay if the little boy in Boulder didn't mean so much to me, but the thought of spending another 2 months away from him now makes me sick. And I know that I won't ever come back unless I stay now. So I won't come back, despite the fact that I feel both useful and liked. If I were in a job which showed more chance of immediate results, I might be more tempted too. As it stands, I feel guilty about leaving and yet I just cannot face staying. I would get too caught up in it and, I am afraid, lose those things which make me a unique person, unlike anyone else in the world. There is too much lack of perspective here, and too little self-pride among the leaders. There is too much competition between the various CR organizations and far too little of the so necessary cooperation. SNCC begrudges every inch of newspaper coverage allotted to Martin Luther King, and CORE appears to resent the credit SNCC is receiving for the Summer Project. It's all a sticky, horrible mess. And I need to get away from it. I only wish I could protect my friends here without having to stay.

Well, this is getting me nowhere. I guess I had better close for now. I am confused and tired and blue-- not a very good frame of mind for writing a good letter.

I don't have an eraser handy, which is why this letter is such a mess.

Love,

Judy