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COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

MATTHEW HALE, CHIEF OF STAFF

July 17, 1964

Miss P. Vail
1808 Tyburn Lane
Bridgeville, Penna.

Dear Miss Vail:

In response to your recent communication, let me say that I share your deep concern about the situation which now prevails in Mississippi and elsewhere throughout the South, and I am sorely troubled about the real and immediate physical threat to the safety of the civil rights workers in the COFO project posed by armed white extremists.

I have been endeavoring for months to persuade the Department of Justice to provide as much protection for these courageous young people as the Federal Constitution permits. The recent tragic events in Philadelphia, Mississippi are merely a token of what may happen if the situation is permitted to get out of hand.

I shall continue to press for Federal protection, and I am hopeful that the Attorney General, who is, I know, as deeply concerned about these matters as I am, will find it possible to provide a response adequate to the need.

Sincerely yours,



JOSEPH S. CLARK

JSC:sls