



The Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity

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August 19, 1961

TO PILGRIMAGE APPLICANTS:

We now have twenty-six clergy preparing to go on the Prayer Pilgrimage. Of the twenty-two listed in my letter of August 4th, one has had to withdraw due to circumstances beyond his control. Five priests have been accepted since that date. A revised list is enclosed. All of you have the letter of the 4th and I must refer you to the second paragraph therein as still applicable. I have received no objections to any of the participants listed previously and I am confident that both those on the original list and those added will welcome the company of one another.

Three applicants from the original number and two of those recently added are still due to return their information forms advising me of what funds they will require and, also, serving to confirm their intention to go along. If I have checked here _____ you are one of these. Please send it to me right away.

As you can see we still have room for more participants. Also, I still have a hope that additional Negro priests and some from other non-Caucasian backgrounds will apply. I have continued to make contacts with various people who ought to be in a position to encourage such folk to consider going.

Several things are considerably more settled than when I last wrote you. Chief among them is my signing of a contract with the Greyhound Company yesterday for a chartered bus departing from New Orleans at 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 12th, enroute to Jackson, with stops at a school in New Orleans and a college in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Estimated arrival time in Jackson, following the two stops and a box lunch on board, is about 5:30 P.M. The bus will deposit us at the Jackson terminal and is not scheduled to go beyond. The cost of this bus service for your information is \$227.40. The bus can accommodate 37 passengers.

It seemed best to stay with the original plan of beginning in New Orleans because it is a reasonably easy place to get to by public conveyances, it is a more suited place to assemble without difficulty, and our commencing there allows us to see two church institutions before possible incarceration. Also, it is a more convenient place for representatives of CORE and SCLC to meet with us in preparations. The bus is chartered only to Jackson because of the likelihood of there being no one to continue in it at a great expense.

The suggestion has been made that we hope that the entire group might visit the jail, staying only the minimal time required and then posting bail and continuing the trip. I think there might be value in the first part of the suggestion (if sufficient bail is located and thought to be potentially forthcoming), but an alternative would be for a portion of the group to be bailed out forthwith and continue the trip. Of course, at that point, if we hope to make General Convention, the group, whether all or a part, might

have to break into sections in order to cover all points desired. On the other hand, only one or two institutions after Jackson could well suffice symbolically - and there aren't a great many more enroute. Sewanee should certainly be on the list for after Jackson. You may read something in the press about a situation there only a week ago when two Negro priests were not served at a university-owned facility on campus. The excuse given was that it is leased out by the university. These were students in the summer Graduate School of Theology.

I do not think that we should utilize automobiles in making the balance of the trip as I suggested in the previous letter as a possibility. Two many factors regarding time and itinerary are uncertain and will have to remain so. We cannot plan very carefully for after Jackson. The most I will make definite will be travel from Chattanooga to Sewanee, with the Rev. Robert Hunter of that city assisting. He would be coming with us except for the fact that his wife expects their first baby at about the time we would be in Jackson! We will, undoubtedly have some service in his church while passing through.

Beyond Sewanee we could take whatever means of travel seemed best, including, possibly, air coach if we were to want to go directly to Detroit at that point. The schools north of Sewanee are primarily St. Margeret's in Versailles, Ky., and Kenyon in Ohio. However we travel to Detroit, we will then probably take another bus (if the entire group is still together) or cars out to Dearborn to meet the Dearborn Pastors' Union. The appointment with them is Saturday afternoon, September 16th. It could be changed if necessary, I am sure.

To date we have received \$2,600.00 in contributions for the pilgrimage and more will be forthcoming. We will be a.o.k. as far as basic costs go it now appears. If anything remains in this account there will undoubtedly be further need as far as getting the participants to return to Jackson for a hearing - if other cases have not caused disposition before such time. Also, there have been considerable expenses incurred here in connection with the Pilgrimage which could stand recompense, although I am presently listing all monies received as being available for expenses involved directly in the action of the plan.

CORE has said that they could put up \$6,000.00 for bail assistance, which, at the going rate of \$500.00 a man, would cover twelve of our group. They indicated they might be able to help further if necessary but we can't count on that in our planning. I am hopeful that a full assurance on bail for the balance of the group will be obtained within the week. Several of the participants have indicated they would - or might be able to - cover their own bail. I shall look for the full amount needed and we can see later how this is handled. There very well may be many contributions to come forth after the fact of being jailed and from this office we are prepared to receive donations for such a bail fund. Someone has suggested that we stay in jail until the Church bails us out! I wonder how long this would be?

CORE has also said that they would provide us with legal counsel and I am meeting their chief lawyer this Monday as he stops over at the Atlanta airport, probably enroute to Jackson. I will discuss all questions pertaining to legal points with him then... Let me remind you, however, of the possibility that the ICC might rule favorably before the time of our journey and I sincerely hope they will. I think that we should hope for the changes that mean no jail - not because we aren't prepared to go, but so that the barrier might simply fall for the benefit of everyone. Also, while I am realistic, I am not beyond hoping and praying that even our pilgrimage might influence the authorities to change voluntarily. All in all, though, I think you can count on becoming familiar with the Jackson jail, or at least a goodly portion of our group can. Perhaps one of our number spoke for others when he said: "About jail - Here am I, send me. I'm not brave, but I'm obedient."

I am working on the place we will stay in New Orleans Monday, September 11th. It will probably be either at a Negro college campus or at a motel which will take integrated groups. I will let you know the place in my next letter. Everyone should plan on arriving by 6:00 P.M. that day so that we can have supper together and an adequate amount of time for our preparations session. I will give you the directions to where it will be and you will have to take a taxi from the airport or wherever you come in. It will be better if we are not disturbed either by the press or hecklers that evening, so please do not let the press know.

We we arrive in Jackson late Tuesday afternoon it will be time for supper and we can seek to have it then and there which will mean that the Jackson jailer would be our host for the evening. I am trying to determine whether we could stay at a college campus that night if it seemed advisable to await the next day for this appointment with destiny. I do not see any reason for not having our supper upon arrival, but I'll wait until my meeting Monday with CORE's lawyer to see what procedure would be best. If we stayed overnight we would have to purchase individual tickets the next day and be headed for an intended trip... this would be more costly and less natural than simply going straight to the terminal. So, barring unforeseen factors, I believe we should have supper upon arriving in Jackson, but I've shared this little consideration with you and other observations of a lengthy nature so that you would see the situation as I do.

You will want to come with only one suitcase if possible. Attire enroute from New Orleans should be in clericals and throughout the pilgrimage. However, I suggest that you have one shirt and tie with you in case it's wanted. Bring your Prayer Book-Hymnal or small copies of each. For reading in the jail I suggest the P.B., your Bible, and other things you may want to meditate upon. There is no guarantee, however, that you can retain all of these in your immediate possession. Where several of you are coming from the same place, would you talk among yourselves and plan on one person bringing a compact communion kit, together with elements?

I am ordering sufficient copies of PART III of The 'Grey' Book for everyone. Entitled "The Kingdom, the Power and the Glory", I think this has several excellent litanies we may want to use, but if not used corporately I am sure you will find it helpful in personal devotions. Should you have something you think might be helpful to

the group along these lines, bring it or consult with our Chaplain, the Rev. C. Killmor Myers.

At Sewanee we will not stay at the Sewanee Inn, for they have said, after cancelling a reservation I made, that they are filled during the week of our tour. Because this is the opening week of school I am sure they will be filled and there was nothing I could do except make protest over their refusal to serve the two Negro priests mentioned previously. However, I have advised them that we will surely hope to have some of our meals there. Perhaps the University will see to the changing of the policy before we get there. We will probably stay in some university dormitory, which I have requested, or in faculty homes which have been offered. If any of you are driving to New Orleans, I do not think it would be out of order to go via Sewanee and have lunch at the Sewanee Inn. The University has its own police department which could remove you if you sat quietly at the counter awaiting service as countless students have done. I suggest that it would be well for some to stop - if they are driving and it's convenient - in the event that we might be forced to cancel our group visit there, and it would not matter if a few stopped in and the whole group came later.

In my next letter I shall send checks for the amounts you have indicated will be needed to help get you to New Orleans. You can give me an accounting later and we will see what adjustments can be made if you spent appreciably more or less. Those reporting that their expenses would be covered otherwise are free to submit an accounting if other sources should not come through. However, I am figuring closely on the basis of what has been called for and will appreciate hearing if there is a revision in your asking.

I shall prepare a news release for September 3rd revealing final plans and giving the names of those to be involved. If you have strong objections to my releasing the names at that time, please let me hear from you. THE LIVING CHURCH will not be sending a man on the bus with us, but will cover us from other sources. Because we are not filled to capacity I will be glad to receive requests from other press media who want to come along. Except for the names of participants you may share the information in this letter with people known to you, and especially be sure that the local Society group (if any) is kept informed and involved. One local group is planning a service of witness on the night of the 11th.

Other details: I am hoping that participants can be housed/Detroit ⁱⁿ without charge either in a parish house converted into a dormitory or in private homes. However, if you want other accommodations, you must contact the convention office at 33 E. Montcalm St., Detroit 1, Michigan. Time of arrival there is uncertain, but we should aim for September 16th. Should you need to telephone me before we meet in New Orleans my home number here is 255-0778. An additional line at the office is 525-2953. I suggest you bring such money as you will bring in Travellers Checks, and leave a record of the numbers at home as per their advice. Don't be surprised if the arresting officers and others are quite civil and polite: It's a poor picture of the Northern image of the South when "riders" tell the press how pleasantly surprised they were. Be cordial, but resolute. When anger is expressed, return love.

Faithfully,

(Rev.) John B. Morris