

dear mama and daddy,
i'm safely packed away at canton now and doing what i really love to do.
i couldn't have asked for a better project area or assignment.
i'm working on federal programs, which is a project aimed at a
long term improvement of the economic situation of the negro through
local cooperation with the aid of federal funds and programs from
the dept of agriculture and stuff like that. i really believe in
this stuff because first of all it improves the economic situation,
and second, in the process it teaches the people to cooperate with
each other and build a close community spirit. With this cooperation
they learn in organizing for economic reasons, they build their
own leadership, which then can be used politically in the future when
they get the vote. the main work we are doing here in canton is
organizing a farmer's cooperative to have its own supply house and
gin. the negro farmers outnumber the white farmers almost four to one
here. more important, we are organizing the negro farmers to vote
in the elections for a county committee of the ascs, which decides
how much the cotton allotments are. it consists now of five white
men now. we can elect four negroes if we work hard. this will mean
a great deal to them not only in terms of economic advantage, but
in moral. any farmer is eligible to vote who has a cotton allotment.
we are now doing the organizing, contacting the federal agents
to come and explain what the federal gov. will help them do in terms
of land improvement. loans, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. our legal
people have drawn up a charter for the coop, but it is having trouble
getting cleared by the state, although they have to clear it soon in
order to keep federal funds. in other words, we're really working
hard, and in the meantime training local people to take over in a while
when we leave. i go around to farms and talk to farmers, to the
lawyers, to the capitol, speak to federal men, and write reports,
etc. a couple of hours in the evening i will be working with the
local kids in the community center next door. i am living with
a negro family in a house with another girl in the project. i get
three meals a day provided for me here in freedom house where my office
is. i am really delighted, ~~and~~ i am also doing my own research on the
organization of local people at the same time.
now, for the regular. please send me my army jacket. it's freezing.
also my boots, my rubber ones and the other pair if i haven't
thrown it out. also send a box of any old clothes for donation to me here.
i left my sneakers at renee's but i'll tell her to send those.
also send five pairs of woolen sock from the house, or buy some.
actually me knee socks will be enough.
my adress is 838 Lutz st. Canton, miss. and the phone number if
necessary is 359-9944. love to all. i'll try to write each week.

p.s. please send my camera and three rolls
of film, ~~two~~ color, ~~two~~ and one
black and white with processing. also send
my peruvian sweaters, two of the three,
and my maroon v neck. i repeat, i'm
freezing.

*any 105 camera will be appreciated
also for soups, etc. packages of these only*