

May, 1969

Dear Friend:

Amidst all the controversies about the tactics of the black movement nationally, in Mississippi Negroes are forging forward with responsible programs and solid organization. Years of relatively unheralded activities are bearing fruit in the election of local officials, levelling barriers of discrimination and building economic foundations.

I want to tell you of one of these exciting projects headed by an authentic folk heroine, Fannie Lou Hamer. Back in 1964 she electrified the country when she led the successful struggle at the Democratic National Convention to open the door to black delegates. Since then she has remained in rural Mississippi educating and organizing her people and patiently winning partial victories.

Now, to give hundreds of landless poor people a chance at self-help, economic self-sufficiency and political power, Mrs. Hamer has organized a farm cooperative. Acreage of fertile soil is available to the cooperative at exceptionally low cost. A community of free, independent people can be built if financial help is given at this time.

Contributions of \$10, \$100, \$1000 will start a pioneer development, giving a new life to Americans whose living standard is as low as that of the peasants of the underdeveloped world.

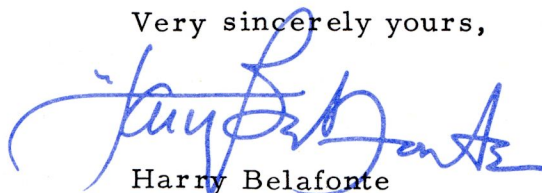
In keeping with Fannie Lou Hamer's stubborn principal that black and white can rise together, the farm cooperative will include poor white families.

I earnestly believe this example of initiative, racial cooperation and political militancy is worthy of the support of all decent Americans.

Will you join me in sending a generous contribution today? It is tax exempt and it affords you an opportunity to be part of an exciting movement that immediately benefits poor people while it equips them to continue the struggle for freedom where it had almost been extinguished.

Please send your check directly to Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, Freedom Farm Cooperative, 626 E. Lafayette Street, Ruleville, Miss., in the enclosed prepaid envelope. Please make it payable to the National Council of Negro Women -- Sunflower Section.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harry Belafonte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "B".

Harry Belafonte