

John Howard Griffin

3816 West Biddison  
Fort Worth, Texas 76109  
September 11, 1967

Dear Nell,

I cannot tell you how pleased I was to get the enclosed letter from Mr. Mitchell today. It augurs a little better that a friend of yours, and obviously more than a friend, a devoted advocate, has gone to Ramparts.

These are overwhelmingly busy days, but I am beginning to see a little light. Am much preoccupied with the ganging-up on Father Groppi in Milwaukee - how transparent and revealing all of it is to any Negro. I have been supporting him with all my force within the hierarchical framework, exerting all the pressures I can to persuade them not to listen to the racists and remove or silence him. He is very hated now, something I hate for any man to go through - hated by his own colleagues, ~~but~~ by other "Christian leaders" in the area. Even the TV coverage has been generally abominable and one-sided and "white-thinking." Our dear Father Markoe died last month. He did the same thing thirty years ago; and on his death he was acclaimed a "glory of the church who was 25 years ahead of the rest of us." Will we never learn to stop praising the mediocre (and therefore safe) and damning the superlative (and therefore dangerous.) No, I don't guess we ever will: history is strewn with this pattern.

Late, late at night and still a thousand things to get done.

Our great love to you and yours,

John