

April 7, 1972

To: Oktibbeha County members
Tombigbee Council on Human Relations

From: Donna Myhre, Executive Secretary

Re: Meeting April 13

Some Council members in Starkville feel that there is need for a local chapter of the Council on Human Relations in Oktibbeha County. There is much that needs doing locally, and it seems appropriate that local people should concern themselves with these things.

Although no one needs another meeting to go to, that seems to be the only way to make plans for getting something done. This may not be a good time to add to your list of meetings, but this is the time when we need to realize that progress in human relations does not take place automatically, and that it is up to us to see that such progress does occur.

There are some who believe, and I do also, that this is a critical time for us even though there are few obvious signs that this is so. We have made some progress, we have gained some gestures toward equality of opportunity and justice; but, not only do we still have a long way to go -- we are now in danger of losing what has been won.

We have desegregated public schools; we have at least token employment of Blacks in local establishments; we have one Black School Board member. These things are new; they are not firmly established parts of our society. We shall be making a sad mistake if we do not work and fight to keep these things, while also pushing for more. We may have to run just to stay where we are.

The points scored so far in Starkville have come almost entirely from the efforts of Black citizens and organizations. It is time now for those White citizens who care about justice and freedom to supply some of the effort. It is time now for Black and White citizens to work together for the ultimate good of all.

It has been suggested to me that the Council on Human Relations is the appropriate instrument for such a joint effort. I agree. If you agree, please come to the office on Main Street this Thursday night. At 7:30 p.m. If you agree, but can't come at that time, please give me a call at 323-5824 before 5 p.m., or 323-4210 after 5 p.m.