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TITLE: Letter to Curtiss McDougall, 4/11/55.
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SUMMARY: Claudette Colvin's arrest is described and McDougall is requested to see if any of his students can send money or help.

NAMES: McDougall, Curtiss
Colvin, Claudette

TOPICS: Segregation in transportation

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17 Molton Street
Montgomery, Alabama
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#56

Carole McDaniel

Dear Professor:

I am so sorry about your book going wandering from place to place and wish there were something I could do or suggest. I am so anxious for it to get published and think it will be such a definite contribution.

Do let me know if Cameron and Kahn take it- they certainly have been smeared on the Matusow book but I think they made a great contribution to the sanity of the country. I am sorry Huberman was so recalcitrant, as I admire him so much and Sweezy too.

I am glad to see you associating with such respectable company as Charles Taft. I am surprised at him addressing the Teacher's Union - he must be better than I have given him credit for.

Your family ~~MEMORANDUMS~~ (learning to write on an electric typewriter and it sometimes gets away from me) news sounds interesting and since you are such a versatile family what with musicians, politicians, teachers etc. you seem to be a combined threat on every front to the status quo.

Do you think you could get any of your students interested to the point of doing something about it in the way of contributions etc. to a case down here that I am very much interested in? Briefly it is this- about a month ago a group of high school pupils got on a bus here (colored pupils) and acted accordingly to the law, the Negroes filling up from the back and the whites from the front. Since there were many Negroes and few whites, a little fifteen year old colored girl, named Claudette Colvin, was seated in front of the side door. Two other Negro high school students were on the seat on the other side of the bus and a Negro woman who was pregnant was sitting by her. When the bus got down town, the bus driver ordered the Negroes to move to the back although there were no seats available as more white people got on. The other two Negro girls moved, and finally the pregnant woman moved after the bus driver made some Negro man get up and give her a seat, but the little 15 year old girl would not move. She simply kept saying "I done paid my dime, I aint got no right to move." (Sorry I can't help but be accurate in this.) and then the bus driver stopped the bus and got two big white policemen and then a motor cycle cop and they got on the bus and threatened her and still she WOULD NOT MOVE and they had to take her off the bus, then they handcuffed her and took her to jail. The NAACP is appealing the case and needs money for it, and also any support in a moral sense that can be obtained. I just can't explain how the little ~~fixx~~ girl was so brave-- it was a miracle- and she can't explain it either- just says "I done paid my dime- I aint got no right to move." She looks like a little chicken that just hatched and is thin and so childish looking and inarticulate, but even after being deserted by her other companions she still WOULD NOT MOVE. In this setting and in this town and with FOUR big, burly white men threatening her- isn't that amazing. They only hit her once- although when they brought her to the jail the policemen on duty there said all she need was a good "whurping." If you think any of your students would write to her or would send any money write to her Claudette Colvin- in Care of Mrs. Rosa Parks- Cleveland Court Apartments, Montgomery, Alabama. I know how many claims 634 Cleveland Avenue. there are on the sympathy of mankind right now, but she is so brave.

Life here gets more interesting all the time and is really fascinating. The struggle that is going on is marvellous and so thrilling. Family all O.K. WRiting going badly as there is never any time. I am sending you a book that someone gave me about speech in the Ozarks- you like the Ozarks and you might like the book. Personally I think it dull.

Love to all the Macs- VA. D.

87-1-166