

## it is our own compassion...

If you could 'tune in' your inner ear as you would a radio If you could 'tune in' your inner sight as you would a television set You would see countless Beings In an inferno of pain and confusion and bewilderment Crying deep against their innocence outraged these And the sounds and images of fear in us The fear of living The fear of Being free The fear of freedom The apprehension of impending disaster that escorts us And inhibits us while we wander And wonder about the world we live in And this nation we call ours And particularly this state of Mississippi Which is a part of this Nation A part of this world in this so-called enlightened age

The valley of death is now in Mississippi
The Negro there has used up all his fear
He knows who he is and what he is fighting for
No more can be taken from him
He has no more to lose
He cannot look upon suffering for he is suffering itself
And we have reference to his Being there
Not many tears are shed by those who have no time to cry
Tears are for some of us who read about and hear about and look upon
The images and the results of terror and injustice

That assail our consciousnesses
And entangle us in one end or the other
Of the lynch rope

Are we the lyncher or the lynched?

If there are tears and anguish
It is our own compassion coming into being
We are the lynched

For Joseph and his darker brothers now
The shame and the guilt of the knowledge of slavery
His degradation has been expiated
Whatever was the sin that he committed
beyond the flood
That aboriginal sin has now been rendered miniscule
In the heat of ovens and atoms
And channels of imaged shambles
Blame and shame and guilt are words out of the past
The past has been



THE PARENTS OF ANDREW GOODMAN

Now is another and the only time The time now of enlightenment for him A chance now of ennoblement for all of us In helping him to realize his rights and privileges so long denied We help to liberate the genius suppressed that will enrich humanity His liberation must be known to him By giving and doing All that we are able to do and to give in this regard We help ourselves We help ourselves to realize freedom from fear of Being free We help ourselves to live without the fear of freedom We release ourselves from guilt The guilt out of the past that we will know anew That we must surely know now Even if we now turn away Or cover our outer ears Or close our outer eyes (There are four eyes in Mississippi) We appeal to you in the name of JAMES CHANEY In the name of MICHAEL SCHWERNER In the name of ANDREW GOODMAN Three who were crucified to set men free In this year of our Lord

A benefit performance of "THE AMEN CORNER"

By one of America's most distinguished writers - JAMES BALDWIN

Is the means by which we intend to raise \$10,000

To aid CO-FO in Mississippi

Miss Bea Richards the magnificent artist we are honored to introduce

Who was born and raised in Mississippi

The actors all and the production staff

All, all are pleased to help in making this

An evening you will remember with gladness

For as long as you will live—For as long as you will live

Humbly I thank the many friends who have sponsored this communication





ANDREW GOODMAN



JAMES CHANEY



MICHAEL SCHWERNER

THE COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS (CO-FO) HAS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD BRINGING ENLIGHTENMENT AND EDUCATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN KEPT FROM LEARNING OR EXERCISING THE PRIVILEGES OF CITIZENSHIP. SET DOWN THE AUGUST NIGHT OF FRIDAY THE TWENTY-EIGHT, IT WILL INDEED BE MADE AN AUGUST TWENTY-EIGHT. THE TICKETS ARE FIFTY, THIRTY AND TWENTY DOLLARS. THE CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: FREEDOM MISSISSIPPI TO BE SENT TO THE

CORONET THEATRE 366 N. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles 48, Calif.



PLEASE ACT NOW - AMEN

FREEDOM MISSISSIPPI