

P.O. Box 71,

Hilton,

3245.

PCIV/5/2/5/58

4th July, 1976.

Mrs. Gay Spiller,
P.O.Hilton,
3245.

Dear Mrs. Spiller,

Thank you very much for your letter.

I think the things your parish is thinking of doing are very worthwhile (and the more other church bodies that can be involved in such things, the better) but, as you say, they only touch the periphery of our problem.

The problem is, of course, a political one, and until there is political change, the problem will remain. But what we can be doing now is trying to prepare people for that change, particularly White people. Nor do I think that there is any point in trying to tell people that change is going to be painless. It isn't. It is going to involve White people in fundamental changes in their whole way of living. One of the difficulties is that White people don't really know what Black people are thinking, what kind of change they look forward to, what kind of life they want. More important than anything else, it seems to me, is for White people to be told what Black people want -- and the only people who can tell them that is Black people.

I am not a church person myself but it does seem to me that the church community in this area is in a better position to put its White members in touch with Black thinking than in most other parts of the country. This is because we have the Federal Theological Seminary on our doorstep at Edendale. Amongst its staff and students are very articulate people who, I am sure, could put across very effectively the views of what I suppose one might call the new Black Christians. If one could get them to talk to White Christians, and get White Christians to ~~talk~~ listen to them, I think you might begin to move the local White Christian community to accept that fundamental change is necessary and in-

evitable and to start doing something to bring it about. Would it not be possible for church groups here to get together to start something of this sort -- initially White and Black getting together to tell each other what they think and hope (and fear?) and then perhaps trying to do something together to move our local society in the direction of sensible change?

This isn't a very inspired idea but it might be worth thinking about.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,