

January 2, 1974

Dear Julian,

In earlier letters, I sought your support for the Southern Elections Fund, the Voter Education Project, and in the accompanying letter, for the Institute for Southern Studies. Today, I face a personal financial crisis and must, reluctantly, write on behalf of my own cause.

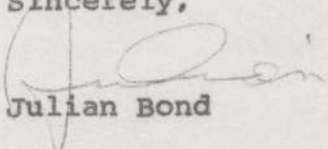
As I mentioned when we were last together, I derive 90% of my income from public speaking. Since 1970, I have combined speaking tours with organizing and fundraising activities, in increasing amounts, for those groups I support. Consequently, my own lecture contracts have suffered, and my personal income has declined this year, until today I am in a bad situation.

I own no stocks or bonds; I have no interest in commercial or business enterprise; my only assured annual income, the legislative salary, is \$7200. I cannot contract for lectures away from Atlanta until the General Assembly adjourns. That means, quite simply, that I have no source of income until after March 15.

So, I face the prospect of being unable to pay taxes due January 15, and the necessity of closing my office. That closing may ultimately be more damaging to me, since a shutdown means the loss of a continuing base of operations which secures lecture contracts for the year. It means, additionally, that I will be unable to provide legislative and casework services to constituents, and that I must discontinue support of the several national organizations with whom I am involved.

In the past five years, I have raised millions of dollars directly or through the use of my name for groups I support. Yet, for my own cause, I cannot even ask for a loan, for I have little prospect of repayment before the end of the year. If you can assist me in any way, I will be grateful.

Sincerely,


Julian Bond

p.s. Happy New Year to you and to Barbara.