

2495 Redding Road, Fairfield, Connecticut, January 8, 1966

Dear Miss Breggi:

I am sorry to be slow in answering your kind letter of December 22, but I have only come back now from my vacation. I appreciate the effort you have put into working out your suggested cuts, and in large part I accept them. But I do have some counter-suggestions.

Among the Negroes cut out entirely by your suggestion would be Adam Clayton Powell ( pp 132-144); Roy Wilkins ( pp 144-157); and James Farmer. Now Powell is the most powerful Negro, politically, in the United States -- the only Negro who has actually made a place for himself in national politics. Furthermore, he has a vast symbolic meaning for Negroes. As for Wilkins, he is the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the most powerful Negro organization, the pioneer in the whole civil rights struggle; and he personally is the spokesman for a very important segment of Negro opinion. Farmer is the head of the Congress of Racial Equality, a more militant organization, and a man of great personal force. It seems to me that we simply cannot ignore these men

You also suggest cutting a few pages at the beginning of King's section -- but those pages put his whole action in Montgomery in perspective

You cut "Carl Rowan ( pp 305- 313), who is not of the rank of Powell, Wilkins, and Farmer as a "leader," but who has been head of the United States Information Agency, one of the most sensitive spots in our relations abroad , and who is a famous journalist .

To come to the last chapter, I don't see how the book can be left without some sort of summing up, some indication of the forces and their direction, plus, I may say, some indication of my personal attitudes.

To turn to what I propose, I am sending a copy of the book by air, with my markings. These are in RED for my suggested cuts. I have restored Powell, Wilkins, Farmer, and a fraction of Chapter VI. To compensate for the material I have thus added, I have made a number of incidental cuts along the way, sometimes only a paragraph at a time. I have taken out Walker ( pp 221 -232 ).

To compare, in space, my cuts with yours, I have something like this:

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