

NAACP SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FUND

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YOUTH WORK AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

1790 BROADWAY • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10019 • 245-2100

November 17, 1974

Dear Friend:

This Christmas in America, thousands of black children are starving. Inflation has hurt us all, but for black families it has been a disaster. Middle- and upper-income Americans have had to eat less steak and rib roast because by this summer their prices had risen approximately 40%. But by the same period dried beans -- the staple of hundreds of thousands of black families -- had skyrocketed in cost by 256%.

What all this means is this:

There are black children in our country who are no longer receiving the basic foods needed to sustain life.

There are black children in our country to whom hunger is a constant companion, as unshakeable as one's shadow.

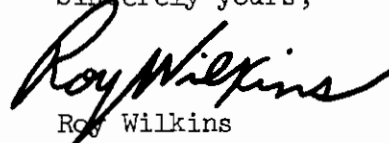
There are black children in our country who look forward eagerly to sleep, because sleep is the drug that dulls the hurt in their stomachs.

Thousands of these children will remain hungry throughout their childhood. And then, because hunger in the early years often retards growth and causes brain damage, as adults many will be put away in institutions for the retarded or mentally defective. And that will be an end of it.

This has been a difficult year for all of us. Many Americans have had to wind down to a lower standard of living. I do not minimize this nor do I ask you to. I ask you only to remember that across America black children who were already barely subsisting on dried beans and ham jowls are now eating pet food -- and less.

Please do not turn your back on these children. Find it in your heart to make a generous Christmas gift now to the NAACP's only tax-deductible arm -- the Special Contribution Fund. Our children are starving.

Sincerely yours,


Roy Wilkins

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