

RAYA AT THE FUNERAL FOR SIMON OWENS (CHARLES DENBY)--Oct. 15, 1983

[The genius of Simon lies in the fact that the story of his life--INDIGNANT HEART: A BLACK WORKER'S JOURNAL--is the history of workers' struggles for freedom, his and all others the world over.]

Because his life continues to touch all of us, we, in mourning his death, remember his life. This, it is true, cannot stop the pain at his death. Our hearts go out to his family, especially his wife, Effie, for whom, at a time when few thought of women's liberation, Simon opened two chapters of his autobiography for her to speak for herself, even as his struggles in the South and his fond memories of his sister, Mary Francis, and his continued work for the South of Lowndes County and its struggles, kept no separation of South and North in his struggles for freedom. And his work with youth till the day of his death is seen in the fact that he dedicated his INDIGNANT HEART to his youngest son, Simon, Junior. He, in turn, named his daughter, Leonidia, the African who participated in the national liberation of Senegal, thus keeping the two-way road between Africa and America open.

Good-bye, dear Simon, you have <sup>left</sup> us a great legacy of what truly human relations are. We pledge here to work for the ideas of freedom you lived and died for. They will continue to light the goal of total freedom till it becomes reality for all humanity.

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