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## Letter to Professor Richard P. Adams from James Silver

James W. (James Wesley) Silver (1907-1988)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS  
UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

August 10, 1964

Department of History

Professor Richard P. Adams  
Department of English  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Dick:

I don't seem to have your letter at hand but I am sure that you requested information as to my "case" for your AAUP report.

I have a copy of the letter of June 16 written to you by Russell Barrett; his letter is correct as far as my situation is concerned. On May 30, 1964 Mr. Landman Teller wrote the Board of Trustees in my behalf and in answer to a letter to me from the Board as of April 27. I will enclose copies of each.

This summer I did not teach, mainly in anticipation of being involved in a long, drawn-out bit of litigation with the Board, and possibly with harassment law suits involving libel when the book came out. Neither of these has developed, though I have not been at a loss as to what to do with my time.

My request for a leave of absence was granted by the Board in its letter to Chancellor Williams. The chancellor forwarded the document on June 19, 1964. It contains, as you will see, a statement to the effect that the Board will continue to investigate the charge of contumacious conduct against me. Since very little has happened along this line in almost two months, it is my judgment that the investigation is proceeding quite slowly.

Back in June, when I was in Watertown, N. H., Mr. Teller called to inform me that M. M. Roberts had told him, over the phone, that he, Roberts, would vote for my leave of absence if I would promise not to return to the University. I was rather emphatic in my suggestion to Mr. Teller as to where he could tell Roberts to go. In any case the leave came through and I doubt whether there will be more trouble until next spring when it will be apparent that I am coming back.

This is about all the case for the moment. Perhaps it should be made clear that the request for the leave was initiated by me and that in the whole matter the officials of the University of Mississippi have acted in exemplary fashion. I wish that I could say as much for the Board of Trustees.

All members of the history staff got raises for next year. I was recommended for one by the chairman of my department. According to my leave, my "salary" will be the same as it was this year. Provost Charles Noyes told me this is the usual procedure.

Sincerely,

*James W. Silver*  
James W. Silver