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Corrected version of annotated article by Dudley Morris to Birmingham, time, inc, 20 September 1962

Dudley Morris
WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination.

NSAO008 AD019

A LLM18 DH=ATLANTA GA 21=

MGR= OXFORD MISS=

YR NSA0X022 SEPT 20 NPR TIME INC WUX ATLANTA, CONTAINED NUMEROUS PUNCHING ERRORS. WE HAVE TO RUN THESE TO TIME LETTER PERFECT AND REQUIRES MUCH TIME TO MAKE CORRECTIONS. SUGGEST YOU DO THE NECESSARY TO CORRECT THIS PLEASE=

ARNOLD DESK 64.
ATLANTA WANTS RERUN.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI DESEGREGATION ACT 3.

AS A CROWD OF 2,000 ROARED IT'S APPROVAL THIS AFTERNOON, (THURSDAY), MISSISSIPPI'S GOVERNOR ROSS R. BARNETT PROVED HIMSELF A MAN OF HIS WORD, DEFIED THE ORDERS OF THREE FEDERAL COURTS, AND REFUSED TO REGISTER NEGRO JAMES MEREDITH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI. BARNETT'S REFUSAL OF MEREDITH CAPPED A DAY OF LEGAL INFIGHTING BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WHICH HAD SOUGHT TO FORCE MEREDITH'S ADMISSION TO THE ALL-WHITE SCHOOL AT OXFORD.

AT 3 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON WORD SIFTED THROUGH THE WAITING MASSES THAT THE STATE COLLEGE BOARD AND TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY HAD APPOINTED THE GOVERNOR TO SUCCEED ROBERT ELLIS AS THE UNIVERSITY'S REGISTRAR BY A SPLIT VOTE. THE DECISION ENDED A NEARLY CONTINUOUS TWO DAY SESSION IN WHICH THE BOARD HAD SOUGHT TO FIND A WAY TO DENY MEREDITH ADMISSION, AND AT THE SAME TIME COMPLY WITH A FEDERAL COURT ORDER TO INTEGRATE HIM, AND KEEP KING ROSS FROM SHUTTING THE COLLEGE.

MEREDITH ARRIVED ON CAMPUS THIS AFTERNOON IN THE ESCORT OF THREE FEDERAL MARSHALS AND SOME 200 STATE HIGHWAY AND PLAINCLOTHES POLICE. HE WAS ALSO GREETED BY A CURIOUS BUT SOMEWHAT BELIGERANT MOB OF MISSISSIPPI STUDENTS. HIS STORY WAS BRIEF. HE ARRIVED AT 4:30 P.M., WAS GONE BY 4:51 P.M., LEAVING UNDER HEAVY ESCORT. THE GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED TO THE WAITING PRESS: "THIS IS ALL I WILL SAY GENTLEMEN. THE
APPLICATION OF JAMES MEREDITH WAS DENIED.

Then he turned and walked back inside the University's one story, modern brick and glass alumni house where the confrontation had taken place.

This morning, in a last gasp effort, Jackson Justice of the Peace Homer Edgeworth convicted Meredith in a 10 minute trial, in absentia and without benefit of attorney, on a charge of false voter registration and ordered his arrest. He also sentenced him to a year in jail. But, by the middle of the afternoon federal district judges Harold W. Cox of Jackson, and Sidney C. Mize of Meridian, Mississippi had struck down the conviction by enjoining anyone from arresting Meredith while he was in the state. They also struck down yesterday's injunction issued by state chancery judge L.B. Porter which had ordered state, university, and federal officials from registering the 29 year old Kosciusko, Mississippi native at Ole Miss. The ruling, had cleared the way for the dramatic showdown this afternoon.

And, in Jackson the State College Board suffered the first casualty of the integration battle. Board member, Tally D. Riddell, of Quitman, suffered a heart attack in the midst of the debate and was carried to the hospital.

All of this only provided background for the action on the University campus at Oxford. All day crowds of curious students swarmed around the red brick Lyceum Administration Building where it was thought Meredith would show up to register. The first people were there by seven a.m., and stayed all day. By noon a thousand perched on its granite...
STEPS UNDER THE TALL, WHITE COLUMNS THAT MAKE UP THE BUILDINGS PSEUDO-COLONIAL FACADE, AND SWARMD DOWN UNDER THE WIDE GROVE OF OAKS THAT ROLL AWAY IN FRONT OF IT.

AT FIRST THEY CHATTED QUIETLY. OR, THEY FLIRTED WITH THE DOZENS OF SLIM, SOUTHERN BELLES THAT WAITED WITH THEM.

WITH THE FALL SEMESTER'S FIRST CLASSES STILL A DAY OFF, IT WAS A HOLIDAY OCCASION. A 1955 BLUE CHEVROLET WITH A CONFEDERATE FLAG STRAPPED ACROSS ITS HOOD MOVED AROUND THE CIRCLE IN FRONT OF THEM. AND A BLACK 1962 CHEVY WITH "WE ARE FROM GRENADE, YOU ALL COME DRAG SUNDAY" PRINTED IN CRUDE WHITE LETTERS ACROSS ITS SIDE FOLLOWED IT AROUND AND AROUND.

\[ \text{THE TALK TURNED TO MERIDITH AS THEY DAY GREW LATER AND} \]
\[ \text{THE QUESTIONS OF "WHEN'S HE COMING", AND "WHERE'S BARNETT"} \]
\[ \text{ROSE LIKE A CHORUS OF FROGS.} \]

\[ \text{"I REALLY THINK HE FANCIES HIMSELF A GREAT DELIVERER,"} \]
\[ \text{SAID ONE FACULTY MEMBER (F.Y.I. BUT NO DIRECT ATTFIBUTION} \]
\[ \text{DUNCAN GRAY, AN EPISCOPALIAN MINISTER AND CHAPLAIN ON CAMPUS).} \]
\[ \text{"HE'S REALLY SINCERE IN THIS. I THINK HE THINKS HE IS} \]
\[ \text{SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTION." AND A BLOND MISSISSIPPI JUNIOR,} \]
\[ \text{MARVIN GRAY LAUGHED, "THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO LITTLE} \]
\[ \text{ROCK. WE REALLY HAD SOMETHING THERE. THAT WAS SOMETHING BIG.} \]

\[ \text{"THE SKY WAS A FULL BLUE, TOUCHED ONLY BY A FEW WHISPY} \]
\[ \text{CLOUDS NEAR THE HORIZON, AND AS THE SUN POURED DOWN ON THE} \]
\[ \text{STUDENT'S FACES, THEY LAUGHED. THEY HUGGED THEIR GIRLS,} \]
\[ \text{AND THEIR GIRLS FLIRTED WITH REPORTERS, AND GRADUALLY THE} \]
\[ \text{EXPECTANT THRONG TURNED THEIR WAIT INTO A SPONTANEOUS PEP} \]

GEORGE MONROE, A SENIOR FROM NEWTON, MISSISSIPPI WAS SO SHOCKED THAT HE WALKED INTO THE PRESS ROOM TO GIVE A STATEMENT "DON'T GET ME WRONG," HE WARNED, "I'M A SEGREGATIONIST, AND I BELIEVE IN IT. BUT WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS PROTECT THE CONSTITUTION AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, NOT DESTROY IT. THAT'S TERRIBLE WHAT THEY DID OUT THERE, WHY I LIVED A LIKED TO DIE WHEN I SAW IT." MONROE IS FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE STATE'S "PATRIOTIC AMERICAN YOUTHS" ORGANIZATION.

AND IN A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 1962, SIDNA BROWER, EDITOR OF THE DAILY MISSISSIPPYAN DID HER BIT TO KEEP THE CAMPUS CALM. WHEN THE JACKSON DAILY NEWS EDITORIALIZED (SEE TAKE TWO) THAT OUT OF STATE NEWSPAPERMAN...
WERE SLANTING THE NEWS AND PRESENTING SLANDEROUS STORIES TO THE PUBLIC. AFTER NOTING THAT THE EDITORIAL WENT ON TO SAY "IF THEY ARE HERE TO REPORT FACTUAL INFORMATION, THEY ARE ENTITLED TO DO SO." SIDNA WROTE, "WE, AT THIS TIME, WOULD INQUIRE IF THE EDITORS OF THE JACKSON DAILY NEWS HAVE BEEN READING THEIR OWN PAPER THIS WEEK, AND IF SO, WHERE DID THEY ACQUIRE THEIR FACTUAL INFORMATION?"

"IT SEEMS THAT THE MAJORITY OF NEWSPAPERS IN THE AREA, MANY OF THESE OUT OF STATE, HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE CONSERVATIVE IN REPORTING THE FACTS AND VIEWS ON THE CAMPUS SITUATION THAN SOME OF THE STATE'S OWN NEWSPAPERS." THE DAILY NEWS HAS TRULY FOLLOWED THE FINAL WORDS OF THE EDITORIAL --- "LET THE VERBS AND ADJECTIVES FLOW" --- IN THEIR SCREAMING HEADLINES AND SENSATIONALIZED STORIES.

"ALTHOUGH APPROXIMATELY 50 REPORTERS FROM VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES OVER THE NATION HAVE REGISTERED AT THE PRESS ROOM SET UP IN THE LYCEUM, THE DAILY NEWS HAS NO REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE ON CAMPUS NOR DO ITS STORIES CARRY BYLINES. AGAIN WE ASK, WHERE ARE THEY GETTING THEIR FACTS?"

"PERHAPS THE JACKSON DAILY NEWS SHOULD REREAD THEIR EDITORIAL AND STORIES AND "PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH." CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE LAST EDITOR OF THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN WHO TOOK ON A SACRED COW (ROSS BARNETT) WAS LITERALLY DRIVEN OFF THE NEWSPAPER AND OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY (CK PLS) BY THE WHITE CITIZENS COUNCIL, SIDNA BROWER WAS TAKING HER CHANCES WHEN SHE WROTE THAT."
BUT, IF A FEW STUDENTS CALLED FOR REASON, THE REST WERE CONTENT TO MILL AROUND IN A CURIOUS, SOMETIMES BELLIGERENT MOSTLY FRIENDLY PACK WAITING FOR MEREDITH TO ARRIVE. AT NO TIME DID ANY UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL ATTEMPT TO DISPERSE THE STUDENTS. AND AT NO TIME DID THE POLICE MAKE THE SLIGHTEST EFFORT TO BREAK UP THE MOB, WHICH FROM TIME TO TIME WOULD SURGE OUT ACROSS THE LAWN ON RUMORS THAT THE GOVERNOR OR MEREDITH WERE ARRIVING, THEN RETREAT TO THE HIGH GROUND ON THE STEPS OF THE LYCEUM. BY FOUR O'CLOCK NEARLY 2,000 MISSISSIPPIANS WERE WAITING, BUT THE MOBS DID NOT TURN UGLY FOR ANOTHER HOUR.

MEANWHILE, J.H. MEREDITH WAS MOVING TOWARDS THE CAMPUS. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF U.S. MARSHAL JAMES P. MC SHANE, WHO RECENTLY FLEW TO ISRAEL IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO RETURN CONVICTED ATOM SPY ROBERT SOBLEM TO THE UNITED STATES AND A LIFE PRISON TERM, AND SECOND ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL ST. JOHN BARRETT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, THE EX-AIR FORCE MAN, AND HIS ESCORT WAITED OUTSIDE THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL HEADQUARTERS IN NEARBY BATESVILLE, BEFORE DRIVING INTO OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI.

BARNETT FLEW IN FROM JACKSON AND WENT STRAIGHT TO THE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI HOUSE TO PREPARE FOR THE MEETING.

OUTSIDE THE LOW, MODERN STRUCTURER, REPORTERS RESTED IN THE GRASS, AND IN FIVES AND TENS THE CROWDS FROM THE LYCEUM A HALF MILE AWAY MOVED UNDER THE TREES TO WAIT WITH THEM. PHOTOGRAPHERS MOVED BACK AND FORTH SNAPPING PICTURES OF
Each other. Tension mounted steadily. At four p.m.,
the advance squadron of Meredith's escort pulled into
the drive and rolled to a stop besides the alumni house.
They pushed the crowd back across the road, and made
everyone stand on the other side of a low chain fence.
Seventy-five of them lined up in a single row with their
back to the mob of students. They were uniformed in
Confederate grey shirt, and neatly pressed blue pants,
with a double red stripe at the seam. Their badges flashed
in the fading sun, and slapping against the thighs of
each was a heavy, well broken-in pistol.
By now dozens of students were running across the broad
lawns eager to catch sight of the man they had been waiting
for most of the day. Two of them shinnied up a tree, and
a minute later were followed by two more who clung like
gawky birds in the branches over the crowd. Resentful
shouts of "go home nigger," "go home black man." Rose
as Meredith pulled up in front of the alumni building in
a green and white 1962 Plymouth. He bounced out quickly
and the chants of "two, four, six, eight, we will never
integrate" cut the air. Boos and whistles followed him
into the alumni house. "It's a summitt meeting with the
governor," someone yelled, and a chant of "we want ross.
"we want ross. "we want ross." went up again and again.
The students roared "hoddy toddy." but this time the words
had changed from "gosh almighty" to "christ almighty."
A hush fell inside the alumni house as McShane, Barrett
and Meredith pushed through the front door. turning to
UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR ROBERT ELLIS, MCSHANE HANDED OVER THE INJUNCTION INSTRUCTING HIM TO ADMIT MEREDITH TO CLASSES. ELLIS TOOK ONE LOOK AT IT AND LET IT FALL TO THE TABLE TOP. THEN BARNETT WALKED OVER AND PICKED IT UP. HE TOOK ONE LONG LOOK, TURNED IT FACE DOWN ON THE TABLE AGAIN, AND ANNOUNCED HE COULD NOT ACCEPT IT.

"DO YOU REALIZE YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW?" MCSHANE ASKED. BARNETT GLANCED AT HIM AND REPLIED BY ASKING IF MCSHANE WERE TELLING HIM OR IF IT WAS UP TO A JUDGE TO DECIDE THAT, AND THAT WAS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF IT. ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, THE MEETING WAS AS FORMAL AS CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD ALLOW. BARNETT Addressed MEREDITH ONLY ONCE, WHEN HE ASKED FOR THE RECORD BEFORE TURNING HIM DOWN IF HE WAS JAMES MEREDITH. MEREDITH WAS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED SUCCTIPLY "YES SIR."

THEN THEY LEFT AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAME. MEREDITH GRINNED SLIGHTLY AS HE GOT BACK INTO THE CAR, AND SLIPPED ON A PAIR OF READING GLASSES. HE WAS DRESSED IN A NEAT BROWN SUIT, BROWN SHOES, AND A WHITE SHIRT WITH A RED STRIPED REGIMENTAL TIE.

MEREDITH'S CAR PULLED QUICKLY DOWN THE DRIVEWAY, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME OF THE DAY THE CROWD BECAME UGLY. THERE WERE SHOUTS OF "NIGGER GO HOME" AGAIN, BUT A FEW CRIES OF "LET'S GET THAT NIGGER, " "LET'S GET HIS CAR" AS WELL. DOWN THE ROAD ACROSS THE LAWN THE MOB SPUNTED 2,000 STRONG, YELLING AND SHOUTING. MANY WERE ONLY CURIOUS AND EXCITED, BUT THERE WAS LITTLE DOUBT THEY
WERE NOT UNDER CONTROL. IF THEY HAD EVER SUCCEEDED IN CATCHING UP WITH MEREDITH AND CUTTING HIS CAR OFF, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN BLOODSHED. BUT, FOLLOWED BY THE STATE POLICE, THE KOŚCIUSKO NEGRO SPED PAST FRATERNITY ROW, AND ON DOWN THE ROAD TOWARDS MEMPHIS.

THE MOB, HOPING HE WOULD SHOW UP TO REGISTER OFFICIALLY, AND NOT KNOWING THAT BARNETT HAD REFUSED TO GRANT HIM ADMISSION, SPUN ON. THEY GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE GYM AND AROUND THE LYCEUM SHOUTING ANGRY THOUGHTS LIKE, "I'D LIKE TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT NIGER. I'D BREAK HIS HEAD" AND MILLING TOGETHER IN CONFUSION, FORTUNATELY VIOLENCE WAS AVERTED BY THE PRESENCE OF THE HIGHWAY POLICE.

B ENDSHEET 1 — WILL FINISH MESSAGE LATER

BUT IF MEREDITH HAD STAYED ON CAMPUS ANY LONGER THERE WERE ALL THE INGREDIENTS FOR A FULL SCALE RIOT.

TWENTY MINUTES LATER THE MOB DISPERSSED AND THE STUDENTS WALKED BACK TO THEIR DORMS HAPPILY DISCUSSING THEIR VICTORY (AND BARNETT'S) IN KEEPING OLE MISS ALL-WHITE. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED IT WOULD PRESS CONTEMPT CHARGES AGAINST THE CHANCELLOR, DEAN AND REGISTRAR AT THE UNIVERSITY, BUT FOR THE MOMENT KING ROSS WAS NOT MENTIONED.

CERTAINLY THE AFTERNOON'S ACTION AND IMPASSE HAVE DONE MACH TO WORSAN THE MOST SERIOUS FEDERAL-—STATE CLASH SINCE LITTLE ROCK, AND HAS DRIVEN BOTH SIDES CLOSER TO YET A MORE DRASTIC SETTLEMENT. MISSISSIPPI IS COURTING FEDERAL INTERVENTION WITH EITHER TROOPS OR MARSHALS THROUGH ITS
CONTINUED DEFIANCE OF THE FEDERAL COURTS, AND ROSS BARNETT, AND HIS LEGISLATURE IN JACKSON SEEM JUST THE PEOPLE TO SEND THE INVITATIONS.

I ADD: WE HOPE THAT OUR TUESDAY NIGHT FILE CONTAINED ENOUGH BIO ON MEREDITH. HE ONLY TOOK EXTENSION COURSE AT MARYLAND AND KANSAS. DURING THE TIME HE FILED UP CREDITS FROM THE TWO UNIVERSITIES HE WAS SERVING FULL TIME ACTIVE DUTY IN THE AIR FORCE AS A STAFF SERGEANT.

WE WILL UPDATE AS DEVELOPMENTS BREAK. REGARDS=

DUDLEY MORRIS, COLONIAL HOTEL, OXFORD.