9-28-1962

Brandon to Thomson Newspapers, London, 28 September 1962

Author Unknown

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28220 oxford mississippi first add stop in warm sunshine among leafy trees university of mississippi campus looked serene and unconcerned yesterday stop but in fact neither students nor professors could concentrate on their lectures worried about possible closing of university stop but eye found more common sense here than anywhere else but it was

mainly based on selfinterest most students agreed only alternative feared said that if admitting meredith was closing of university they would accept him stop but they also knew that his forcible enrollment Barnett play his last card and but many would make governor order its closure stop many of younger students thought anything was better than letting this negro in stop when eye mentioned this fact to graduate students most of whom back desegregation he said quote they're still too close to papa and mama unquote majority of faculty is also against policy of governors stop
and if they dared there would be majority backing for a resolution condemning board of university's trustees for having permitted Barnett assume role of registrar which was his way of preventing Meredith enrollment.

According to no one is allowed to stop university's constitution does not permit politician to interfere in its affairs stop its only gradually that you begin feel that politeness and below disarming mm smile of people here behind enchanting prettiness of quote southern belles unquote there's something haunting in air some sort of invisible mental curtain mm against outside world stop there's the professor who furtively motioned me aside to tell me that university trustees were trying prevent meeting of faculty afraid that some critical resolution might emerge from it there are many indications that all telephone calls to Washington are tapped and there's Bill Simmons whose muscles bulge but whose handshake is soft who heads white citizens council successor to Ku Klux Klan the
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clandestine force ready take law into their own hands any time
stop occasionally you run into full force of hatred quote
you can write that eye am thinking of going to cuba husky tough
looking man in black strawhat said to me quote eyed feel safer
there than here unquote and to negro who passed us he shouted quote
and you bastard you better go to cuba too if you want be safe unquote
then
he slapped me on shoulder and walked off stop and there are some
fourhundred state troopers and sheriffs who look mmiam ludicrous
in motley variety of steel helmets gas masks mmiam wooden clubs
who would certainly have fought had yesterday bloodshed or
no bloodshed had meredith attempted enter campus with only
twentyfive federal marshalls protecting him stop quote we are
not one of those latinamerican banana republics unquote one of
those beefy redfaced troopers admonished me we will fight unquote

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page 4 - thomsonews london

aye civil war mood has gripped mississippi that is difficult
to convey. stop memories and aye thousand courthouse monuments and
hundred thousand tombstones still haunt this country and
though the commercial appeal published in memphis

tennessee less than one hundred miles away warns that mississippi
is not vacuum stop its one of fifty states and it cannot stand in
isolation. such admonition has no effect stop but just as white population was stunned that many funeral

(be dared here so are the) should point again at their breasts negroes too are incredulous
quote eye donno know what theyre doin it for unquote middleaged
negrowomen said in reply to my asking her what she made of it all
quote they know they donno want aye negro in university eyem scared say what will happen to us stop glad eyeve no children if eye
see what this meredith has go through unquote more

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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