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## James W. Silver to Sir Archibald, 21 May 1953

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

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May 21, 1953

Sir Archibald Gordon  
British Embassy  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir Archibald:

When David Cohn was here about a month ago, he suggested that he would do what he could toward influencing you in the direction of coming down here to the land of catfish fries and barbecues. So I'm writing to see if you could take time off during the coming year (from September 15, 1953 to May 10, 1954) for a jaunt into Mississippi. We could pick you up at the Memphis airport which is only three hours out of Washington.

For a dozen or so years we have been trying to bring forum leaders of national and international importance to our campus for the purpose of waking up the students (and the faculty) to some of the facts of life. We have been very fortunate in securing such people as Senator O'Mahoney, Eric Sevareid, Turner Catledge, Clinton Golden, David Lilienthal, Clarence Streit, Virginius Dabney, Ralph McGill, Oliver Franks, Leland Stowe, etc., etc. This in spite of a very limited budget. Our program has probably been the best influence on the campus in these years and to some extent in the whole state. Some of these programs have been carried over the air and it is expected that most will be in the future.

We would like to have you speak to a college audience (entirely voluntary) of some five to eight hundred on a subject of your choosing and then give them a chance to have at you with questions. That is the working side of our project but we shall also do everything in our power to see to it that you enjoy your visit and that you see what you might be interested in in this part of the country. In fact, we would be mightily pleased if you could hang around for awhile.

As I mentioned above, we don't have much money but we can pay all your expenses and something in addition. If you can come and will let me know how much we would need to bring you, I'll do the best that I can to get together the money.

I would certainly appreciate your talking this over with David. He has spoken here many times and is quite aware of our situation and our needs. I think he will assure you that you will have a good time down here where things don't move too fast.

Please let me know whether you can make it sometime in the coming year.

Sincerely,

James W. Silver  
faculty adviser to the forum committee

JWS:nb