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Albert Speir to Mr. Meredith (6 October 1962)

Albert Speir

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October 6, 1962

*Uncomplimentary
no return add.*

James Meredith
University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Meredith:

For many years the Jewish people have been discriminated against. However, they have always displayed great dignity. They have not forced themselves on people who do not willingly accept them. Attend their own schools, churches, etc. They certainly could have caused great adversity in America if they had felt inferior to other races. In spite of the persecution they have known (and Civil Rights applies to them also), the laws of our land have never been used to force other races to accept them.

If the N.A.A.C.P. would utilize some of the money they are receiving to help the Negro in ways other than forcing him on the white race, he then might attain the prestige desired.

Here in Detroit approximately 80% of our "Aid To Depend Children" and "Welfare" recipients are Negroes. The Negroes here in Detroit could use some of the money which has been used to cater to a whim of yours to attend an all white university. We taxpayers would be grateful and relieved of our burden, if the N.A.A.C.P. would help the Negro in a way which could be useful to him.

Here in Detroit the Negro has his Civil Rights, but not acceptance. When the above mentioned moves into a white neighborhood the latter moves out to the suburban areas. After the white people are so generous to give their homes up for a cheap price, you would think the Negroes would be satisfied, not so, he then wants to move to the suburb. Why? Is it because the Negroes are repulsive to each other?

When the reporters were interviewing you regarding the death of two men killed in the riot there at the university, you wore a smile on your face, which made a very bad impression. It was not the face of a remorseful person, but that of a man who was gloating because it happened. You are not normal Mr. Meredith if you can so callously exonerate yourself, because YOU were the OBJECT, and the men who were killed, victims of your Civil-Rights.

I think our marshalls and soldiers have done a wonderful job of protecting you, so far.

If the government raises our taxes again, I think I shall come down to Oxford and get a job in the cafeteria where you eat. If you are man enough to want your Civil Rights, be man enough to stand on your own feet, instead of getting the hold damn army to do it for you.

Albert Speir
Albert Speir



James Meredith

University of Mississippi

Oxford, Mississippi