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Hugh Clegg to Doctor James, 9 August 1960

Hugh H. Clegg (b. 1898)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

Assistant to the Chancellor
Director of University Development

August 9, 1960

Dr. James W. Silver
Jesse Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

Dear Doctor James:

I appreciate so much your sending me a copy of the article reporting the facts and your interpretations as result of your and Doctor Murphy's interview with President Truman. I found your report most interesting.

I would have answered earlier, but in early July I had to have a bit of surgery to remove my offending gall bladder. I am glad to report that apparently the operation and recuperation have been successful in all respects.

My own first meeting with your distinguished interviewee was somewhat different and far less scholarly than your own. We were getting ready to have graduation ceremonies for one of the classes in the schools I was managing in Washington. Our Commencement speaker was the Vice President, Mr. Truman. At his request I called on him on Tuesday morning before the graduation was scheduled to be held at 10 a. m. on Friday of the same week. I was introduced to the Vice President for the first time, and he asked where I was from. When I told him I was from Mississippi, he observed that I did not talk like a Southerner-- for which I duly apologized. This reminded him of a story about a Northern soldier in a Southern camp who was having his first date with a Southern girl. He told her that she surely did talk slowly, whereupon the young lady replied: "Shucks, that ain't nothin'. You oughta hear my sister. Why she talks so slow that the other night she went out on a date with a soldier and before she could say no, it was too late." This, mind you, I could remember solely because it was a story narrated by the Vice President. The following Thursday word came that President Roosevelt was dead. The graduation ceremonies and all government functions were cancelled, and diplomas were handed out in Mr. Hoover's office with only family members present.

Your first interview was far more stimulating than mine, as you can clearly see.

Dr. James W. Silver

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August 9, 1960

I hope you have a wonderful experience for the remainder of the summer,
and I shall look forward to seeing you upon your return.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,


Hugh Clegg