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A Californian to Mr. Meredith (2 October 1962)

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Mr. Return Address

October 2, 1962

Dear Mr. Meredith:

I wish to commend you for your great courage in facing this adversity, and may God give you the strength to carry on. That your quest for knowledge should have brought all this, is shameful on the part of Mississippians, who in trying to bar you from your constitutional heritage of equal opportunities for education for all, only indicates what a barbaric age we ^{still} live in, even tho we call ourselves civilized.

For a University dedicated to the search for truth, light & knowledge for the betterment of man kind on one hand, and to display prejudices on the other, is in direct conflict with itself, & thus I do not believe the University of Mississippi is worthy of you.

You have shown great strength & courage, which will never be appreciated there, & because I think it would be almost beyond human endurance to live in such a hate climate as Mississippi, I hope you will consider coming to the state of California where the Universities would deem it a privilege to have you.

We are a progressive state, abounding with

Creativeness + where new ideas replace old ones. Attitudes of people here in general, are warmer, as is the climate. Your worthiness as an individual wanting to learn, + progress, + contribute to mankind should not be stymied there; for we can only be useful where our talents are appreciated, rather than hindered.

Sincerely yours,

a Californian (white)

who believes in fair play

and who has your best

interest at heart.

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