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[Illegible] to Jim, 28 December 1962

(Author Unknown)

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YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

HALL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

December 28, 1962

Dear Jim:

You undoubtedly know that Meredith is having serious trouble in some of his courses. Maybe you also know that he was in New Haven last week, persuaded by his lawyer, Miss Motley, to come here for special tutoring and rest. I did not see him for I had been called to Key West by the death of my mother. But friends of mine here found him an apartment and took care of him. From them I get some disturbing reports that I feel I should pass on to you. They tell me that he was in a dispondent and distressing emotional condition, that he was unable to study, very depressed and melancholy, that he resented being persuaded to come here, that he thought he should not have left Mississippi, and that he gave up after four days and started driving back home. It was after he left here on Saturday the 22nd, and while he was on the way home, that news came that his father's house had been fired into. They have not heard from him since. I gather that he did not believe he would be able to pass his courses--algebra and French, I think. But he said that if he did not pass he was determined to "get himself killed," meaning that he intended to provoke violence against himself deliberately in Mississippi. I do not know how seriously to take this, but my friends were convinced he meant it. If his condition is as disturbed as they say it is it would seem entirely possible that he would be capable of doing something of this sort. I do not pretend to be able to advise you what to do or to say that it is your responsibility to do anything. I can only trust you to use this report according to your best wisdom. You probably know more about his real condition than my friends do up here anyway.

Yours,



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