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James W. Silver to Miss Greenfield, 15 October 1962

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October 15, 1962

Miss Meg Greenfield
Room 1107
National Press Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Greenfield:

My family and I have had four or five personal crises in this Meredith business and this, I suppose, is another. I'm not sure that I ought to send the enclosed to you and yet I have a compulsion to send it.

There is much doubt in my mind as to whether this is what you wanted. I thought I knew Saturday afternoon but now I'm rather uncertain; anyway, I wrote out something Saturday night (and also lost \$60 playing poker) and tore it up Sunday morning. This is such a small part of the whole picture but is an attempt to indicate the feelings of a person such as myself. In the whole business I have had moments of exhilaration and moments of real despair.

I have no desire to be disloyal to the local administration, nor even to the state government, but what I have written is the truth and can be documented. Some of the words may be wrong - and I rather think you had better read the thing with a view to libel (I don't know much about that).

I'm still waiting for the repercussions from the AP photo which you saw in the Times. One can never tell - the idiots may raise hell or they may decide to keep quiet. My son and I have had a few threats but nothing justifying any real anxiety - yet. We do have a shotgun in the house and I'm thinking about getting another.

Whether I say this for I know it will be hard for you to understand that I can't have my name attached to the article (if you determine to use it or any part of it). In any case it wouldn't be hard to pin it on me, and I'm not sure ~~that~~ I would say nothing or even deny having written it. It is obvious that it has been written by a "moderate" and maybe that is enough identification.

This I'm sure I shouldn't bring up - there was no talk of compensation and I'm not particularly concerned with that, but in case there is use of the article and money involved I think it would be wise to send it to Lillian and she could send me her own check. This seems childish and perhaps trivial but I'm living among some shrewd people without ebbs and some of them would stoop to anything. Of course if you want to forget the whole thing, it will be all right with me - even though I think this sort of thing not only ought to be, but has to be written

I'm sending a copy of this to Nancy Balfour of the Economist, partly because I have a slightly guilty conscience about not having written anything for her.

Sincerely,

James H.