

11-13-1963

Phil to Jim, 13 November 1963

Philip F. Detweiler

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Recommended Citation

Detweiler, Philip F., "Phil to Jim, 13 November 1963" (1963). *Correspondence*. 740.
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THE JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN HISTORY
RICE UNIVERSITY
HOUSTON 1, TEXAS

13 November 1963

Professor James W. Silver
Department of History
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

I have read through and enclose pages 11-41 of "Mississippi: The Closed Society." I was concerned principally with finding some transitions (to replace most of the asterisks) and with suggesting how far it should be expanded beyond what it was as an address.

On the first point, I have attached as inserts suggested transition sentences--I am not defending the particular language I used; all I am arguing for is the need of some transition. I think you could still utilize asterisks to separate the case histories.

As to content, I ignored the red lines by which you indicated deletions for the address, and am suggesting deletions only where I have so marked it in pencil in the margin. The major question about length, of course, is simply how many of the case histories--from Cox-Minter to Aaron Henry--that you should use. I think you should cut some because the number you have gets hard to digest. My feeling was to keep Cox-Minter, Kennard, and Henry. Certainly if you include too many brief accounts the reader's recollection of one begins to blur with another.

If you delete material, subsequent wording may have to be slightly altered; I did not attempt any such alterations since I did not know what you will want to delete.

I have a few miscellaneous comments noted in the margins. But please note throughout: I make my comments literally as "suggestions," and I hope you will take them as you would those of another reader.

What I propose is that you indicate on these pages, and on the first ten you have, what parts you want to keep, what transitions you want to use. Send it back to me and we will retype it here. I'll look at it again and send it to you. (You might be preparing a sequel: what happened when you got back to Mississippi. I wonder.)

Sincerely,

Phil

Philip F. Detweiler
Managing Editor

P.S. The sooner you can get to this, the happier we will be with the printer.