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Bennett B. Wall

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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 31, 1963

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

Dear Jim:

Worry not at all. If you get fired as of week after next let's go together and set up our own university. If I had as good a case as you do I would not object for a moment. I realize that you have deep roots in Oxford and the South. That is the tragedy of living. Men put roots down. Quite often they are restrained by these ties when they are injurious to their best interest.

In case you have not figured it out by now, I never really intended for you to solve any of the problems. I was trying to keep needling you for several weeks to keep you from getting on such a knife-edge that you would not do the job I know you can do. As you say, the things that need solving can be solved after we get there.

Karl Fleming wrote me this week that he plans to attend the annual meeting for Newsweek and they are going to feature you in the education section. He also said Sitton would be there with his wife. I have written the hotel asking them to make arrangements to accommodate them at the Vanderbilt. If they can't do it before I get there I will arrange it after I get there.

I have been completely soured by the news coverage of the Asheville meeting. Apparently we bid into a peripheral organization, the Tercentenary outfit, when we agreed to hold the Asheville meeting. All of the news releases and publicity I have seen thus far indicate that the Southern Historical Association is being held in connection with the Tercentenary celebration. They have a regular propaganda wind-mill grinding out stories for the press. Half of the prominent people they list as being members of the Southern have never been members of the Association to my knowledge. There has been no effort to cover the paper side of our meeting or of the social side. If you think I am sour because they have not, except occasionally, mentioned my name, I would point out that they have less casually mentioned yours, Joe Mathews, and even ignored Fletcher Green of Univ. of North Carolina as a past president of the Association. I think the Council should adopt a policy on press coverage.


Dr. James W. Silver

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October 31, 1963

When the Tercentenary outfit first began its slanted propaganda I sat down and dictated letters to one-half dozen friends in the newspaper game telling them you were going to lower the boom, here was a yankee come South and knew from what he spoke, not a southerner running from the South analyzing it; that there were some of us who were proud to even know you. I wrote Jonathan Daniels, Johnny Popham, and T. George Harris of Look and Newsweek magazines. So far I have received a couple of answers. I got a real nice long letter from Jonathan Daniels who swears he would like nothing better than to come and conceivably could come. He has certainly alerted his own staff, the press (Associated and so on) to the Asheville meeting and especially to cover your speech. I suspect that Harris wrote the Atlanta office. He is senior editor on the Pacific Coast. I am not sure that it helped but at any rate I am glad I did it. Now you deliver.

Sincerely,



Bennett H. Wall

BHW:noa