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Betty [Zoo] (Mrs. A.O.) to Mr. Silver, 10 April 1963

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43 Jenckes Street
Providence 6, R.I.
April 10, 1963

Dear Mr. Silver,

Your letter did get to me, and thank you. I am sorry that Mississippi hasn't learned anything, but then, why should it be different from any other state? We're nothing to brag about up here in the cradle of Roger Williams, and our Governor, on the front page of the second section of the NYTIMES, 4/9, says the schools in his state "are not facing a crisis." We have ^{open} segregated schools. We do not test the children, which results in large ungraded classes, which are snake pits. The Governor's own kids, or part of them, are on double sessions.

This probably doesn't cheer you up very much, but maybe it will help. It must make it even harder for those of you willing to stick with it in Mississippi to have our Northern virtue waved at it. Don't believe it. Sure, our colleges are open to all, and with the Quakers, for instance, the best way to get admitted to a good college is to be in some way exotically non-white, and sure, anyone can ride a bus or go to a movie, but that's where we've been since the Civil War. It's a whale of a lot better up here, but then, we're a whale of lot better off economically. Furthermore, we have a less debilitating climate and our nutrition is superior. It has always been my theory that the South suffers from mass malnutrition due to the ability of those in the kitchen to soak or fry out of any dish any vitmain content.

Our Senator Claiborne Pell, an excellent man, says he's in favor of an amendment to the Constitution permitting prayer in classrooms, and our City Hall and State House are decorated with Nativity scenes at appropriate seasons. Meanwhile, don't miss Hannah Arendt's series on Eichmann and ramifications in The New Yorker, and keep smiling. I have faith in our muddling through.

Shalom,

P.S. How was the quality of those banned paintings? They sounded gauche to me.

Betty Zee
(Mrs A.O.)