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## Bill to Jim, December 1963

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BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY  
WALTHAM 54, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

1963

Almost the night before  
Christmas

Professor James Silver  
Dept. of History  
University of Mississippi  
Oxford, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

Thanks for your note and forgive the long delayed reply . I sent the small change along and trust you received it . We finished the lectures a couple of weeks ago , and I have been trying to catch up on the lost Tuesdays ever since . Not really lost , though . The coverage has been widespread .... the impact here terrific , and of course we hoping for good things from the T. V. show . Of course I'll let you know when it will be shown in Memphis . We expect to work on the program after the holidays , and have it ready by March .

I gather you're still holding them at bay in Oxford , and there just isn't anything they can do about it . When you come to think of your unique position .... not simply unique in Mississippi , but in the entire South , it certainly has Faulknerian overtones to it . If you can just hold out and keep needling them , there are bound to be some younger men coming along in other places who will be inspired by your example .

Our next serious problem here is to get going on a long range education-program for Negro boys and girls , primarily from the South . All of the universities in this area are going to get together and pool their resources and conduct a formidable recruiting drive in Southern Negro colleges for bright second year students who can be brought up here on scholarship and primed for graduate or professional school standards . We are also planning to include some of our own ghettoized Negro kids in such a program . Another idea we are thinking about is taking 50 or 100 Negro kids over the summer from local high schools, and giving them a fare a few notches above the Boston public school level to raise their sights a bit , and get them interested in moving on to college . Anyway , there's plenty to do here as well as Mississippi so we'd better get on with it .

I hope we can keep in touch with one another . One of the difficulties of this situation is that communication breaks down so frequently , and when there are no legitimate barriers there just isn't a good justification for it .

All our best for a good Christmas/AND A reasonably happy New Year.

B. Q.