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Calvin S. Brown to Mr. Silver, 27 March 1963

Calvin S. Brown

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THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
ATHENS, GEORGIA

March 27, 1963

Dear Mr. Silver:

Thanks for your note about my Faulkner article. I have a number of copies on hand, and am happy to send you this one.

With regard to the propaganda, it seems impossible to find a balanced view anywhere. Certainly the propaganda of such groups as the White Citizens' Councils is much of it false and irresponsible. (Incidentally, why would it be splendid for the negro to organize for racial purposes, but iniquitous for the white to do so?) But the same one-sidedness on the other side may strike some balance, but is certainly not much better. To take only two examples:

The "Price of Defiance" Pamphlet, p. 5, paragraphs b and c, emphasizes the fact that the Constitution of the state vests control of the University in the Board of Trustees, not in the Governor, and that this control "includes the question of the admission of students to the university." All this is true, of course. But by the same fact, the Governor's oath to defend the Constitution of the state obliges him to oppose the usurpation of this right by the federal courts, which have dictated the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ admission policies of the university. The first and major political interference in the affairs of the University came from outside, and the governor's interference was an attempt to cancel this interference. Certainly his methods were insane, but that doesn't change these facts.

Also, the last full paragraph on p. 7 of the same pamphlet says, if stripped of its devious language, ~~says~~ that citizens of the United States have the protection of the Bill of Rights only at the President's pleasure.

Certainly, the self-pity of a good deal of Mississippi is, as pointed out, offensive. But

equally offensive is the self-righteousness of the over-simplifiers on the other side.

Sincerely yours,

Calvin S. Brown

Calvin S. Brown

Thanks for your note about my Faulkner article. I have a number of copies on hand and am happy to send you this one.

With regard to the propaganda, it seems impossible to find a balanced view anywhere. Certainly the propaganda of such groups as the White Citizens' Councils is much of it false and irresponsible. (Incidentally, why would it be splendid for the negro to organize for racial purposes, but injudicious for the white to do so?) But the same one-sidedness on the other side may strike some balance, but is certainly not much better. To take only two examples: The "Price of Defiance" Pamphlet, p. 2, paragraphs b and c, emphasizes the fact that the Constitution of the state vests control of the University in the Board of Trustees, not in the Governor, and that this control "includes the question of the admission of students to the university." All this is true, of course. But by the same fact, the Governor's oath to defend the Constitution of the state obliges him to oppose the usurpation of this right by the federal courts, which have dictated the admission policies of the university. The first and major political interference in the affairs of the University came from outside, and the governor's interference was an attempt to cancel this interference. Certainly his methods were insane, but that doesn't change these facts. Also, the last full paragraph on p. 7 of the same pamphlet says, "it stripped of its various language, says that citizens of the United States have the protection of the Bill of Rights only at the President's pleasure." Certainly, the self-city of a good deal of Mississippi is, as pointed out, offensive. But