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2-6-1958

## W.P. Webb to Professor Silver, 6 February 1958

Walter Prescott Webb (1888-1963)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
AUSTIN 12

February 6, 1958

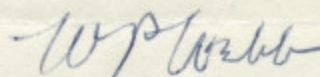
Professor James W. Silver  
University of Mississippi  
University, Mississippi

Dear Professor Silver:

Thank you for your letter of January 14. I have been enjoying a bout with the flu and an extra burden of work which explains my delay in answering your letter. I have noted the schedule you have set forth and will undertake to conform to it. I do not yet know whether I will drive or come by air but will notify you in due time.

It has occurred to me that if I give the substance of the talk I gave in Houston, I should have careful consideration for the sensibilities of people who are face to face with a rather bitter racial problem and have very definite notions about it. I shall undertake to be considerate and in no way sensational in what I have to say on the subject. What I would like to have the South see is that it may be diverted from its better destiny by a fight over something that is pretty well settled. At any rate, we will talk this over when I arrive. I am looking forward to the visit with a great deal of pleasure.

Sincerely yours,



W. P. Webb

WPW:kg



January 14, 1958

Professor Walter P. Webb  
History Department  
University of Texas  
Austin, Texas

Dear Professor Webb:

I have not forgotten you and your prospective visit but as Bill Doherty wrote you I went in the hospital the day after leaving Houston and came out the second time on New Year's Day. God knows what was wrong with me although the medicos claim that at various times I had double pneumonia, asthma, and my old skin trouble, and I'm sure that one of them operated late in the year on my rear (the only constructive thing about all this being that I have learned to spell hemorrhoids).

All that being as it may, we are looking forward to your visit in March. As I understand it, I'll pick you up in Memphis on Sunday, March 2. We won't work you too hard but would like to have you conduct what we call a series of seminars on the afternoons of Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. In each case we shall have present from sixty to eighty students, the brighter ones who come on their own (no captive audiences). The speaker usually talks for awhile, up to an hour, then we have a short break, and finally up to an hour of questions. On Tuesday night we would like to have you talk at a dinner meeting of the Claiborne Society, our local history group. Thursday night or Friday morning we'll drive over to Columbus (probably Thursday night). You are scheduled to speak there on Friday night (6:30 or so) before a dinner meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society.

You have already been put down for the Friday night meeting as speaking on the same subject that you used in Houston: "Economic Progress in the South, 1930-1950." (probably not exact title). In the seminars we would prefer that you talk quite informally, perhaps from notes (but as you wish), and I would suggest, if you would not be bored by it, that you talk about 1) the Great Plains, 2) the Texas Rangers, and 3) The Great Frontier. This is just a suggestion, but you should remember your audience will be made up of undergraduates largely, and you don't have to worry about their knowing too much about your books. I would suggest, too, that at the Claiborne dinner you talk, again quite informally, about your own experiences in the teaching and writing profession. Almost all of your audience there will be made up of history majors of one sort or another and there will probably be fifty people in the audience.

You will notice that your audiences will not be large but they will be the best we have to offer. This simply means that they are pretty much handpicked and they come on a voluntary basis. Our experience is that this works out much better than drumming up large crowds, which is easy to do.



Either Carbone or I or both of us will take off with you on Saturday morning for the environs of Aberdeen. It isn't far from Columbus and you can spend as much time there as you wish. That night we can bring you back to Oxford or we can bring you to Memphis where you can catch your plane or train. If you come back to Oxford on Saturday for the night, one of us can take you to Memphis on Sunday.

We are looking forward to your visit with great expectations and we shall do everything we can to make your stay with us a pleasant one. This may not be a financially rewarding trip for you but we expect to make it one that you will remember.

If you have other suggestions for your various talks, please let me have them. I shall send out a notice to faculty and students but we shall have no printed program other than the one for the Historical Society meeting.

We'll be seeing you.

Sincerely,

James W. Silver



# STATE TAX COLLECTOR



WILLIAM F. WINTER  
STATE TAX COLLECTOR

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

March 19, 1958

Dr. J. W. Silver  
University  
Mississippi

Dear Jim:

I hope you will feel no further embarrassment or chagrin over the minor mishap in Columbus. Let me assure you that it has cost me no inconvenience whatever and certainly no financial expense. I reported the matter to my insurance company in Grenada and they have relieved me of all further responsibility. It may be that an adjustor will come by to see you and perhaps get a statement from you, but this should wind up the matter completely. I was only too glad that we could accommodate you by letting you have the car and I hope that you got your mission accomplished.

I got out and chatted with Blair for a few minutes after you left and was glad of an opportunity to get acquainted with him.

After the rain came up, we did not try to cross the ferry, but I am going to try to inveigle Elise over that way again sometime and subject her to that ordeal. As a matter of fact, I think you would like that yourself. The ferry is located on the Tombigbee River, in a very picturesque and almost forgotten section of that county.

It goes without saying that we thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Webb's speech and the subsequent get-together with him and the rest of you. I thought his message was most timely and realistic even if it did sting some of the local citizens. Of course, he would have to select the only county in the state that voted for Mary Cain in 1951 in which to make his speech.

We look forward to seeing you all again before long and when you are down this way, give us a ring.

With best wishes, I am

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill", written over the typed name.

William F. Winter

WFW:ets