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John de J. Pemberton, Jr. to Professor Silver, 9 October 1963

John de J. Pemberton

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October 9, 1963

Professor James Silver
 Oxford, Mississippi

Dear Professor Silver:

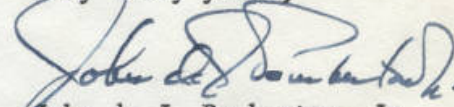
Leslie Dunbar, of the Southern Regional Council, has alerted us to the apprehension he has of efforts being made at retribution following the address which he anticipates you will make at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Society next month.

Although our resources are limited, the acts of retribution for an exercise of free speech in these circumstances would be of major concern to the American Civil Liberties Union. I write to inquire whether Les expresses an apprehension shared by you, and if so, whether we may be better informed of all of the anticipated circumstances in order better to arm ourselves to take necessary action.

Would you advise us of your own judgment of the matter, and of what specific courses of action, if any, you think will be available to persons offended by your speech? And, if it is available, would you share with us an advance text of the speech you are preparing?

We have imposed on Les to forward this letter to you home address, and we are taking the liberty of giving him a copy of our inquiry.

Very truly yours,


 John de J. Pemberton, Jr.
 Executive Director

JdeJP'sk
 cc: Leslie Dunbar