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Ed K. to Professor Silver, 10 December 1962

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McGRAW-HILL BOOK COMPANY, INC.

330 WEST FORTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK 36, NEW YORK

LONGACRE 4-3000 (Area Code 212)

General Book Division

December 10, 1962

Professor James Silver
University of Mississippi
Oxford, Mississippi

Dear Professor Silver:

I want to apologize for my disappearing act but my life suddenly became complicated last week. I tore a cartilage in my knee playing tennis last Sunday and am on crutches as a result. Then a minor eye operation scheduled for last Monday turned out not so minor so I spent three days in the hospital and half my head is still in bandages. There's no reason that you should be interested in my medical history but I go into this detail only by way of apology for my bad manners.

I met on Saturday, in fact all day Saturday, with Meredith and his various lawyers. My feeling that you should not come up for this meeting was based on my uncertainties about Meredith's intentions.

The concensus of the meeting was that you could be of enormous help in the preparing of this book but that you probably should not be the official collaborator. For one thing, the possible legal problems involved in the collaboration of a professor and a student were posed by Jim's lawyers. Also it was felt that Meredith could need a journalist-editor type who had had previous experience in putting books together to help him with the mechanics. I will propose such a man with the next couple of weeks and we will sign contracts.

You can -- and we hope you will -- be invaluable to Jim and his collaborator (whose name will not be on the jacket) in advising on background reading, historical research, etc. Furthermore, you saw important parts of it that Jim did not -- especially the night of the riot when you took an active part. If you would consent to describe what went on in your own words, what you saw, what you did, it would be used in quotes and of course attributed to you. This would do a lot to round out and enrich the book. I think Jim understands now that, to some extent anyway, he must rely on a few others for some of the material which he did not see or experience himself. At the same time,



Professor James Silver

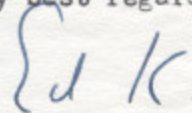
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he is insisting quite properly that the book must remain entirely his.

I'll be coming down to Oxford some time in January when the right collaborator has been found and the work is to begin. In the meantime, please understand how much we are going to be counting on your cooperation and how much we appreciate your desire to help.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed K.", with a large, stylized "E" and "K".

Edward Kuhn, Jr.
Editor in Chief
Trade Book Department

EK:kj