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Jewell L. Gresham to Dr. Silver, 17 July 1963

Jewell L. Gresham

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Recommended Citation

Gresham, Jewell L., "Jewell L. Gresham to Dr. Silver, 17 July 1963" (1963). *Correspondence*. 780.
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24 Gilchrist Road
Great Neck, New York

July 17, 1963

Dr. James W. Silver
Department of History
Emory University
Atlanta 22, Georgia

Dear Dr. Silver:

A small group of native born and reared Southerners, now living outside the South recently joined in composing an Open Letter to Congress requesting that positive action be taken in regard to pending civil rights legislation. It was felt that the voices of Southerners, speaking symbolically, would serve to illustrate the fact that many Southerners are dismayed by the current racial crisis and opposed to the intemperate positions taken by some Southern officials.

In talking with a very prominent Southerner, now occupying a high post in this area, it was pointed out that we should contact key prominent persons inside the South in order to make our symbolic action the more dramatic and graphic. We have just contacted three prominent Southerners in Atlanta, Georgia and have been furnished with names of persons most apt to join us in the contemplated Open Letter to Congress. Your name was on that list.

May we ask you to join us. The document, which will be published as a paid ad in the Washington POST is enclosed for your review and signature. We will have to ask your special consideration in getting it back to us since this letter is late in reaching you.. We plan publication for next Wednesday, July 24th, and must have the material to the paper a day or so beforehand. Would it therefore be possible for you to return this letter to us by return air mail, if possible.

We are asking those individuals in a position to do so to contribute toward cost of ad, although our first request is for your signature and support. A $\frac{1}{4}$ page ad in the POST is approximately \$700. Checks should be made out to me, with entry of bottom notation - "For Washington Post ad."

We hope very much that you will join us. Your support at this moment in History may count very heavily in lifting the needless yoke of racial oppression which has crippled the nation so long.

Sincerely yours,

Jewell L. Gresham
Jewell L. Gresham

*Assistant Professor of English
Nassau Community College, Garden
City, New York

Lecturer, New York University
Supervisor, Student Teaching, Hofst
Hofstra University

*Identification
(Home State: Alabama)

FOR RELEASE AS PAID AD TO WASHINGTON POST

"THE TIME HAS COME for the Congress of
The United States to join with the
executive and judicial branches in
making it clear to all that race has
no place in American life or law."

___ President John F. Kennedy

WE THE UNDERSIGNED SOUTHERN BORN AND REARED AMERICANS SAY THAT THE
CONGRESS HAS, AT THIS HISTORIC MOMENT, A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING
TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION THE JUSTIFIABLE QUEST OF NEGRO AMERICANS FOR
FULL CITIZENSHIP.

WE CALL UPON CONGRESS TO ENACT WITHOUT DELAY COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS
LEGISLATION ENDING ALL DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN ALL AREAS OF AMERICAN
LIFE.

THE TIME IS NOW: If you agree with this statement, write
your congressmen and senators. For further information,
address SOUTHERNERS FOR UNITY, Box _____ Great Neck, N.Y.

SIGNED: _____
SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Current Address: _____

Native Hometown: _____