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George to Jim, 2 October 1957

George B. Tindall

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Route 1, Box 90-A
Durham, North Carolina
October 2, 1957

Dear Jim:

Your letter finally found me up here, where I have taken up residence about half-way between Chapel Hill and Duke and am now trying to decide what to do with this monster I've got by the tail. Every item I cover, it seems, leads to another dozen items in the bibliography so that I am losing ground rather than gaining.

Your notion, I am afraid, is about right. I can see a number of reasons for staying at L. S. U. and also a number for not going to Ole Miss. Among other things, I am indebted to L. S. U. for some very generous aid supplementing my Guggenheim. We own a house in Baton Rouge, we have a number of good friends there, and frankly, Louisiana looks more promising economically than Mississippi. On the other hand, Ole Miss has been getting some bad publicity, as you know, including Harris Warren's blast upon departure. If I thought Coleman could be governor for another term, however, I don't think that would bother me. But he can't, and I just don't have a cast iron nervous system.

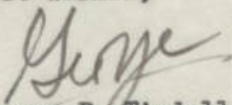
We liked it in Oxford the year we were there. I much prefer the small town atmosphere. In fact, I sympathize enough with the agrarians that I might make a fairly respectable gentleman farmer, but I have more sense than to try.

So I think that the thing for me to do is to say no now so that you can be free to look around at Houston. Incidentally, I am not planning to go--just too far.

Back to your friend Coleman. From what I can tell over here he has been most commendably inconspicuous through all this Little Rock fiasco.

Thanks anyway.

Best wishes,


George B. Tindall