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## Paul B. Shawen to "Sir" (30 September 1962)

Paul B. Shawen

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9/30/62

James Meredith

Oxford, Miss.

Dear Sir:

Now that you have proved your point- the right of colored to be admitted, I urge you to prove that you love this country and its welfare above your self and your race, by voluntarily withdrawing in order to end civil strife.

I attended two universities alongside colored without prejudice. I am one of the few attorneys who would accept charity colored clients. I undured criticism from my local bar association many years ago for insisting upon a well qualified colored attorney addressing a law institute.

I regret exceedingly Gov. Barnett's refusal to admit colored to Miss U. I abhor violence now raging against you. I look forward confidently to increasing tolerance toward minority races such as colored and semitic. BUT EVERYONE MUST EARN RESPECT BY HIS OWN SELF-IMPROVEMENT; it will be delayed, rather than encouraged, BY ACTS SUCH AS YOURS IN INSISTING UPON BEING ACCEPTED WHERE YOU ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT WANTED BY THE MAJORITY

I was once black-balled by a detective I had discovered in an embarrassing <sup>(to him)</sup> ~~situation~~, from joining a Masonic advanced degree. I DID NOT AGAIN APPLY AS MY FRIENDS INSISTED; I never intrude into societies where I expect to feel hostility. I go in social circles ONLY WHERE I FEEL WELCOMED. The aim of life is contentment, not DEMANDING RECOGNITION socially

I feel humiliated by my ancestors transporting yours as slaves from their African homes; even worse was enforced interbreeding by misguided white masters of slaves which encouraged the miscegenation statutes of States such as Indiana WHICH I APPROVE OUT OF MY OWN EXPERIENCES

THEREFOR I BESEECH YOU TO TRANSFER TO Iowa, Minn., O.S.U., Indiana or some other university which has learned sufficient tolerance to treat EVERYBODY AS HUMAN BEINGS GRADED ACCORDING TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL WORTH

Such as act on your part might very well assist your cause in the long run and shame intolerant societies into imitating more humane and enlightened groups. Equally important, you will avoid responsibility for any bloodshed which your conscience must tell you can be avoided BY YOU

Paul B. Shaver  
500 C. ...

9-30-62