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Mrs. E. J. Dalby

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2000
Portland 1, Oregon
October 2, 1962

Mr. James Meredith
University of Mississippi
Oxford, Miss.

Dear Mr. Meredith,

Before you read this letter I want you to know who I am - a white retired school teacher who went to a college that was integrated and who has taught in elementary schools that were integrated. I am fully sympathetic with the struggle the negro is having in trying to gain recognition as a citizen of this country on an equal basis of every other citizen. I am favorable to any right movement for gaining the desired goals of any worthwhile minority group of people. Therefore what I say below is not in any way opposing your actions because of race.

You, I am sure, are anxious to secure equal rights of citizenship for which our United States Constitution provides. You must secure these rights, but you must also secure a respect from your fellow citizens - all races thruout the country. This respect is by far more important than the current goal of gaining entrance to the University of Miss. You are creating issues that involve your whole race and the safety and welfare of a community. It is involving high government officials. Neither the President of the United States nor the Governor of Mississippi should be forced by your cause to be humiliated in backing down on their convictions. It is up to you to show your stature and gain for yourself the respect of the nation as a whole, and make a stride forward for your race.

If you, Mr. Meredith, would withdraw your request for admittance to the U. of M. in a polite way with a public statement that you considered peace and the welfare of the people greater than your personal request, you would gain more for the negro than forcing the issue. Forcing the issue that causes bloodshed and hate is a step backward for the negro. Show that you are intellectual enough to appraise the situation in the light of the welfare of the whole country. Let it be possible for the government officials to "save face".

Yearly students are turned down at one University or another for various reasons, so realize that you are not the first student to fail to attend the university of your choice. There are plenty of educational instution where integration is not a factor and where you could enroll, with a little halo over your head.

Sincerely

Mrs. E.J. Dalbey

Mrs. E. J. Dalbey