

10-7-1962

William H. Brown, Jr. to Mr. Meredith (7 October 1962)

William H. Brown Jr.

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Recommended Citation

Brown, William H. Jr., "William H. Brown, Jr. to Mr. Meredith (7 October 1962)" (1962). *Correspondence: Pro-integration*. 1008. https://egrove.olemiss.edu/mercorr_pro/1008

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answered 1/14/63

6 York Place
Edinburgh, Scotland
7 October, 1962

Dear Mr. Merideth,

The immediate struggle in which you are involved has been, is being, and will be scrutinized from many points of view.... historical, moral, legal. Yet to my knowledge little of the high feeling and intense concern has materialized in appropriate tribute to the man around whose act of high personal courage this storm rages.

Separated not by race or spirit but by space alone, may I be one of many millions who recognize and esteem in you that essential humanity that gives man and life its meaning.

I am enclosing an editorial comment from "The Observer" which is indicative of our feeling here and the understanding that too often does not find its way into print.

With respect and comradely affection,

William H. Brown, Jr.
William H. Brown, Jr.

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THE OBSERVER

1791

22 Tudor Street London EC4 Fleet Street 0202

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1962

AMERICAN HERO

DESERVED world tributes have gone out to astronaut Walter Schirra for his triumphant orbital flight. But the world medal for heroism in the face of danger must this week be awarded to another young American, James Meredith, the Negro student at Oxford, Mississippi, who dared to incarnate in his own person humanity's struggle against racial oppression and mob fanaticism. The danger he faces will be greater when the Federal forces withdraw and the viciousness of some of the Mississippi students suggests that his physical and moral ordeal is only beginning.

The whole incident is being seized on, predictably, for purposes of anti-American propaganda. But, in fact, the defence of the rights of the individual by American courts and President Kennedy's unflinching use of Federal forces to impose the court's decision are new nails in the segregationist coffin. Our Washington correspondent reports cracks even inside the ranks of the Southern governors, and elsewhere in the country the response to the President's action has been overwhelmingly favourable.

There seems good reason to hope that Oxford, Mississippi—like its English namesake—will be remembered as the home of lost causes.

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