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Thomas Hudson McKee to Mr. Meredith (30 September 1962)

Thomas Hudson McKee

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answered
11/20/62 ✓

THOMAS HUDSON MCKEE
MCKEE REALTY
INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES
4516 WEST UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD
DALLAS 9, TEXAS

FL 7-5331 AD 9-1468

September 30 1962

Dear Mr. Meredith,

Note Along with millions of persons, I've watched the tragedy unfold at Ole Miss but I am extremely proud of you, the U. S. Marshals that undertook to protect you, and the federal government whose officials have given you aid and comfort in this terrible exhibition of bigotry and ignorance. Such ignorance has no place on any university campus. If you get a chance, ask Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta CONSTITUTION, to send you a copy of his syndicated column which appeared in most papers today, or tomorrow, Oct. 1. The column which bitterly indicts the silence of the church on this tragedy! It is a gem of journalism which you should be aware of. A note from you to McGill, asking for a copy of it, and a word of commendation from you, would be appreciated, I am sure. McGill is one of the great newspapermen of our life and time.

I understand from the press that you'll be having some studies in the field of government and if so, it seems the enclosures should be part of your background. I hand you a background story on The International Movement for Atlantic Union, published in the Milwaukee JOURNAL of last November. I was responsible for its publication. And when you've read it, then pass on to the enclosed folder dealing with The Atlantic Union convention held in Paris, France last January 12...for some 12 days. My guess is that this Movement will evolve swiftly in the next 3 or 4 years, to the end that the USA may well be, not only a member of the European Common Market within that time, or shortly thereafter, but well on the way to being part of a larger UNION of nations made up of the NATO community. Some great Americans and great leaders of other free nations of the West are working to this end and you, as a student, should know more about it.

I'm working on another phase of the so-called Peace Movement, thus: You are well aware of the fact that for some 180 years, we have had a WAR DEPARTMENT (now Defense) within the federal realm. But, strange to relate, there has never been a PEACE DEPARTMENT! Ever think of it? Strange! Let me relate briefly this interesting story.

Some 5 years ago a man named Frank Gannett died. He was a rich publisher of a chain of daily newspapers across New York State and was a noted Republican and a conservative. He supported Senator Robert Taft of Ohio for the 1952 presidential nomination when Dwight D. Eisenhower was named as the GOP candidate. Gannett supported Taft for the nomination in exchange for a promise, given by Taft, that if nominated AND elected, he (TAFT) would include in his first State of the Union Address, a plea to the Congress to establish a Department of Peace within the federal realm, and give Cabinet status to its chief executive officer.

Gannett first proposed this idea to a convention of Boy Scouts in New York City back in 1934. His speech was carried to the nation via radio, NBC. He cited the failure of America to join the League of Nations, the rise of Hitler, and so forth, foresaw the coming war of 1941 and warned that THEN was the time to DO SOMETHING FRESH AND CONSTRUCTIVE TO AVERT IT. No one paid any attention to him except a handful of idealists. Two U. S. Congressmen -- one from Georgia, praise Heaven -- introduced Bills asking Congress to pass such legislation, creating the new Department of Peace. But both bills died in Committee. I'm undertaking now to revive this idea ~~and~~ and win for it some substantial support here, and abroad. I'd hope some other governments might do likewise!

I hold that if it made sense -- as it did -- to put a billion tax dollars behind the Manhattan Project of 1942 which cracked the atom and paved the way for the A and H Bombs, as a WAR measure, it makes sense to ask Congress to lay a like amount of money on the line for a PEACE institution, or project, such as I have advocated herein. I understand

that some 1800 noted scientists were employed the the government (Atomic Energy Commission), along with their army of helpers, in the Manhattan Project that cracked the atom. It makes sense to me that we employ a like number, more or less, and ask them to put to work all possible, available, brilliant experts in the field of RESEARCH, SALES (ideas), advertising, PUBLIC RELATIONS, PROMOTION. These skilled specialists would research the causes of warfare and mass aggression; thru a network of incentives and subsidies, thus encourage literally hundreds of thousands of brilliant men and women here and abroad, to put their brains to work on some FRESH CONCEPTS which might be "sold" to enough people across the free world that they would join in the movement to FIND THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM, and SET UP A MOVEMENT, AND AN OBJECTIVE, TO CREATE THE NEW INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED TO PRESERVE PEACE AMONG THE FAMILY OF MAN, FOREVER!

If you should be asked to write some theme along this line, one day, keep this in your files for reference. It may come in handy one day. It is a cinch we cannot continue the present course.

If you ever need to write to an understanding heart, keep in touch with me, please. I'm a white businessman in Dallas who holds in contempt the white trash in the South whose members are a part to the disgraceful events of the past fortnight.

Keep your spirit up. Find temporary companionship in books and the acquisition of knowledge. As I heard you say on our local radio KRLD tonight, you are accustomed to loneliness. It need not always be so. But for the time being, keep busy. Time will move along and soon or late, there will come forward even at Old Miss, a few friendly spirits, I feel sure.

Warmest wishes, always!

Very faithfully yours,

Norman Fulson Nee

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