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Dan T. Carter to Mr. Meredith (29 September 1962)

Dan T. Carter

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Answered 11/20/62 ✓

137 Ohio Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin
September 29, 1962

Dear Mr. Meredith,

I am a graduate student in the department of history here at the University of Wisconsin. I have just completed four years of study at the University of South Carolina. I am white. I am a Southerner.

I tell you all of these things in the hope that what I wish to express to you may be more significant.

First of all, let me tell you how deeply ashamed I am of what has happened to you at the University of Mississippi. Perhaps these disgraceful happenings may help to awaken the decent-thinking white Southerner to what is happening around him.

Secondly, let me express to you my gratitude for what you're doing. I know that you have said that you are simply interested in obtaining the best possible education. But, as I'm sure you must be aware, you're doing something far more important. For your action is one more step down that long and tortuous road until all Americans receive the rights implicit in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Constitution.

No doubt you will not be received wholeheartedly by many Mississippi students. If it is of any consolation to you at all, I wish you to know that there are many white South Carolinians I know (and many other Southerners I'm sure) who earnestly desire your success.

I ask you to persevere in your efforts in the hope that someday here in the South we may create together a community of loving individuals in which the rights of all men are safe and their dignity secure.

With warmest personal regards,
I remain —

Sincerely yours,

Walter T. Carter