

9-28-1962

Godfrey Hodgson to London Press Observer, 28 September 1962

Godfrey Hodgson

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CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1220 (R 11-54)

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

1962 SEP 20 PM 10 14

Int'l Press NCC-AC+R
press observer london

095

AMN CBL & RADIO System
C 5983-3

from godfrey hodgson oxford mississippi beginit
campus of university of mississippi here is eye of
hurricane this weekend stop all is calm again colon
students still hoarse from shouting quote go home nigger
unquote on thursday are off to shout for ole miss famous
football team today para

but tis ominous calm stop whole country is watching
to see how president kennedy will meet challenge offered
here this week dash most insolent challenge to federal
authority of unistates ~~xxxxxxx~~ since civil war comma
and on same two indissoluble grounds of states rights and
white supremacy para

no action is expected here now before monday stop but
then federal officers will presumably try ~~xxxx~~ once again
to escort in twentynine yearold james hhh meredith to
register here as first negro student dash unless you
count one who claims he quote passed unquote unnoticed after
last war para

this threat ~~xxxxxxx~~ drivenx to cherished citadel
of rebel chivalry and segregation has already driven states
ambitious racist governor ross barnett ~~farther xxx~~ *to gross defiance*

more

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ole miss two

eww

~~high~~ than faubus ventured at little rock stop
 he has ignored repeated orders from federal courts colon
 physically blocked chief marshal of unistates colon and
 virtually denied federal sovereignty by reviving ancient
 doctrines of states rights para
 so in new orleans yesterday afternoon he was formally
 found guilty of contempt by unistates circuit court that
 has jurisdiction over mississippi stop he failed to turn
 up in court comma and sent lawyers to make plea which court
 dismissed as quote frivolous unquote that ~~xxxxxx~~ whole state
 should replace him there stop now he has until tuesday
 morning to purge contempt or be jailed and pay ten thousand
 dollars aaa day fine para

governor has gone to ground stop but in his capital
 comma jackson comma halfway south between here and new orleans
 comma his official mansion is ringed with his private army
 of state policemen stop only ~~xxxxxxx~~ skeleton force of
~~xxxx~~ grimlooking deputies ~~xx~~ with stars on their chests
 and cowboy hats covers campus stop on thursday there were
 four hundred of them with truncheons comma gas masks comma
 and dogs dash formidable enough display to make presidents
 more

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ole miss three

brother comma attorney general bobby kennedy comma
call off fourth attempt to register meredith when his
car was already on way here for fear of bloodshed para

bobby kennedy has said he will use whatever force
is necessary to get meredith registered stop his forces
are seventy miles north of here comma at naval air base
near memphis stop seven hundred unistates marshals have
been flown in stop this represents almost entire police
force at presidents disposal stop ~~xxxxxx~~ only army unit
moved in so far is one hundred ten engineers ~~x~~ in logistic
support stop whole force is commanded by james mcshane comma
chief marshal who was escorting soblen when he stabbed himself
on plane para

president can fly in troops whenever he wants to dash
either eightysecond airborne division from north carolina
or hundred and first from kentucky comma unit which president
eisenhower sent to little rock five years ago para

but for moment decision seems to have been taken to
try marshals first comma and to keep troops as last resort
stop president has probably been influenced by three reasons
in this colon dash first is enormous american respect for
more

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ole miss four

quote due process unquote comma for going methodically through every legal stage and have an ironclad legal case stop second is political necessity to ~~xxxxxxx~~ antagonize just as ~~xxxxxx~~ few of southern democrats who ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ elected kennedy as possible stop though leaders from deep south have backed barnett comma some moderate southerners have backed him in notably lukewarm way para

but third reason for ~~xxxxx~~ caution is inflamed emotions of mississippians themselves stop senator stennis of state has threatened what he calls holocolaust (SIC) if federal force is used stop that may be wild talk stop but these are tough folk with streak of violence near their sleepy surface comma and they never did reckon they lost that war fairly stop if troops are sent in comma they might have to stay stop tis hard to see how kennedy could avoid arresting barnett colon and impossible to foresee what would happen if he tried to do so in jackson stop and prospects of meredith if he gets into ole miss are not pleasant to think about stop one mississipian told me quote theyll put that burrhead to sleep within half aaa year unquote stop more

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ole miss five

negroes have disappeared in mississippi before and noone
the wiser para

yet tis hard to avoid feeling here that president
has missed chance by hesitating too long stop chief
judge of new orleans court went out of his way to say twas
up to executive branch now stop and indeed it is colon
if kennedy backs down now or fails to bring barnett to
stop throughout south
book/political consequences ~~wixxybx/faxworsxextkxnxxtxoxexy~~
of seeming ruthless stop may be alarming colon but what
of consequences nationally and internationally of seeming
chicken comma as students here put it para

those students are enigmatic backdrop to drama stop
some screamed their support to barnett on thursday colon and
some burned fiery cross in front of administrative offices
that night stop yet privately theres no doubt most would
~~rather~~ meredith was admitted than university was closed stop
they are big ^{polite country} boys and astonishingly beautiful girls comma
and they wander ^{unintentionally} hand in hand round handsome campus of classical
buildings stop they are far more proud of their brutally
successful football team and of their two miss americas in
more

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ole miss six

two straight years than of booklearning or of
~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ oxfords greatest son who
lies in his fresh grave nearby para

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ where would william faulkner
have stood on this fight stop he diagnosed ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xx~~ these peoples
disease more pessimistically than stranger presumes to stop
yet he said he would take down his old musket from wall to
fight their last battle stop and what do this towns
other
~~xxxxxxxx~~ citizens think comma negroes who saw the wood
and pick the cotton and speak only when spoken to query
stop in excitement of integration comma they get little
forgotten endit