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Letter, from Mississippi State College President Ben Hilbun, to Butler C. Barksdale, January 5, 1957

Ben Hilbun

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Mississippi State College
State College, Mississippi

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 5, 1957

Mr. Butler C. Barksdale
Rocking D Ranch
Sibley, via Natchez, Mississippi

Dear Butler:

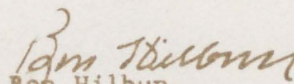
Please accept my sincere thanks for your letter of January 3 commending me for withdrawing the Mississippi State College basketball team from the tournament in which negroes were playing. I am glad to have your approval of my action, which makes me know that my decision was correct.

My only regret is that our team ever went to the tournament. I can assure you that it would not have gone if I had had any idea that integrated teams would be there.

I am a Mississippian, and I believe in what the people of the state stand for. I will not, in my official actions, deviate from long-established policies and cherished traditions.

Again accept my thanks for your thoughtful and much appreciated letter. Come to see us when you can.

Sincerely your friend,


Ben Hilburn
President

BH:lcc