

The Mississippi State University
"M" Club Alumni Association

Box 688
Jackson, Mississippi
March 5, 1963

Dr. D. W. Colvard, President
Mississippi State University
State College, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Colvard:

The Alumni "M" Club congratulates you on the recent decision authorizing the Basketball Team to participate in the NCAA Tournament. These fine young men deserved this type of recognition. They have displayed true sportsmanship, competitive spirit, discipline, and the best of training during their college careers. They have obtained for the University national recognition as being a responsible member of the Southeastern Conference. Your decision has made further recognition possible. For this, thousands of Mississippi State University Alumni are profoundly grateful. We, as many others, know it was a very difficult decision to make under the most trying conditions.

We are proud to have a person as President of Mississippi State University who has unquestionable integrity and has the fortitude to take a stand. The University under your guidance has made tremendous progress.

In your continued success the Alumni "M" Club supports you. We wish to further emphasize we support your decision regarding the Basketball Team and all future ones that are in the best interests of Mississippi State University.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Thames

Robert W. Thames
President

ORACE L. MERIDETH, JR.
WASHINGTON COUNTY
P. O. Box 644
GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JACKSON

March 5, 1963

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
PUBLIC HEALTH & QUARANTINE, VICE-CHAIRMAN
AERONAUTICS AND AVIATION
APPROPRIATIONS
JUDICIARY "C"
MISSISSIPPI LEVEES
WATER AND WATER RESOURCES

Dr. D. W. Colvert, President
Mississippi State University
State College, Mississippi

Dear Doctor Colvert:

I want to commend you on your deciding to permit our fine basketball team to attend or participate in the NCAA. I am convinced that history will prove the wisdom of your decision.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Horace L. Merideth, Jr.".

Horace L. Merideth, Jr.

HLM:m



GAMMA THETA CHAPTER
PI KAPPA ALPHA FRATERNITY

P. O. BOX 177

STATE COLLEGE, MISSISSIPPI

March 7, 1963

Dr. D.W. Colvard
Mississippi State University
State College, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Colvard:

On behalf of the members of Gamma Theta Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha, I would like to commend you on your recent decision to allow our basketball team to participate in the NCAA tournament. We feel that your decision was made with the best interest of our university and the people of Mississippi in mind, and that if this decision is allowed to stand, it will further the fine reputation that our school has attained both scholastically and athletically.

Although we are small in number, we stand behind you 100% in your decision, and we whole-heartily endorse your action. Not only do we commend you on this decision but also on the progress that our university has experienced under your guidance.

Sincerely yours,

Cinclair May

Cinclair May
President

For release at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, March 2, 1963

STATEMENT BY
D. W. COLVARD, PRESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
RELATIVE TO PARTICIPATION IN
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

This statement is the result of my best effort to do my duty, as I see it, toward the students and faculty of Mississippi State University, its alumni and friends, and the people of Mississippi. Whatever shortcomings it reveals are failures in capacity or judgment. They may not rightly be ascribed to failure in desire to do the right thing.

There is obscurity about the "unwritten law." Some say it is one thing; some, another. And still others aver that it does not exist. Be that as it may, it is certain that there is precedent for the President of Mississippi State University to act in the matter of participation in the NCAA basketball championship competition. Under that precedent, I am acting with the full knowledge of the President, the Executive Secretary, and the Chairman of the Athletics Committee of the Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi.

The Athletics Committee of Mississippi State University, representing the faculty, alumni, and students, and the Athletic Director have recommended that our basketball team be allowed to compete in the NCAA play-offs. The student senate has passed unanimously a resolution in favor of playing. A petition signed by some 3,000 students, communications from interested alumni and friends of the institution, and resolutions from alumni chapters -- all convey an overwhelming persuasion in favor of participating.

In answer to this manifestation of interest and in the light of my best judgment, it is my conclusion that as responsible and responsive

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members of the academic community and of the Southeastern Conference we have no choice other than to go. Accordingly, as President of Mississippi State University I have decided that unless hindered by competent authority I shall send our basketball team to the NCAA competition.

I arrive at this decision freely and independently. I make it public with highest respect for the Board of Trustees and deepest regard for the members of the Legislature. As one who has lived in the midst of Mississippians for less than three years, I am cognizant of the hazard of this action and am fully reconciled to the possible consequences of it upon my professional career.

By Coach McCarthy and through my own personal knowledge of the players, I am firmly convinced that Mississippi State University and the State of Mississippi will have reason to be proud of their representation in this national competition, that these are splendid young gentlemen as well as splendid athletes.

My conviction is that the well-trained young people of Mississippi can compete on a favorable basis, athletically and intellectually, with the best in other parts of the country and that our champions are entitled to the opportunity to compete. I am further convinced that the spirit of fair play on the part of all concerned at the scene of the NCAA play-offs will transcend whatever prejudice or bias may obtain and transmute all participants into their essential roles as champions competing for the crown.

My feeling and my faith are that the reception of our team, in recognition of their conduct and spirit, will serve to allay the concern of those who question the wisdom of the participation. My hope for the team is an enjoyable time, good, clean competition, and victory.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

March 5, 1963

Dr. D. W. Colvard
Mississippi State University
State College, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Colvard:

I find myself in the embarrassing position of congratulating a person for doing something that both he and I think is the thing for him to have done. Yet it is a commentary on the situation in the State, that I feel a compulsion to do it. So congratulations for taking the stand that you have. To me, this action needed to be taken because the team should participate fully in national as well as regional and local activities, and because it is the function of an administrator to make decisions for his institution and not to ask permission of other authorities to be allowed to make such decisions.

Dr. Loftin has probably told you that under certain circumstances the Department of Sociology and Rural Life there and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology here operate as a joint department--and so I presume that I may address you as a member of your faculty and say that I take pride in the action of my president.

Sincerely yours,

Julien R. Tatum
Julien R. Tatum
Chairman

jtl

STATE TAX COLLECTOR



WILLIAM F. WINTER
STATE TAX COLLECTOR

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

March 4, 1963

Dr. D. W. Colvard, President
Mississippi State University
State College
Mississippi

Dear Dr. Colvard:

I simply want to express to you my approval of your decision with respect to the participation by the Mississippi State University basketball team in the NCAA play-off.

This is the kind of forthright and realistic approach that more of us need to adopt in our state. I can assure you of my backing and support in this and all other decisions to enable our institutions to compete effectively in both the athletic and academic spheres.

Please call on me if I can ever be of any service to you in any way.

With best wishes, I am

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William Winter".

William Winter

WW:ets

ALLEN L. PUGH
OKTIBBEHA COUNTY
MABEN, MISSISSIPPI



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JACKSON
March 6, 1963

Dr. D. W. Colvard
Mississippi State University
State College, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Colvard:

I would like to let you know that I approve of your decision to let the basketball team play in the National College Athletic Association play-off.

You have my full support and if there is any way that I can be of assistance notify me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Allen L. Pugh", is written over the typed name.

Allen L. Pugh