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November 19, 1964

Dear Mr. Sitzer:

As you probably know by now, McGraw Hill is publishing a book of letters from volunteers in Mississippi last summer. I am the editor of the book, with about a week of work on it still to go.

I'll be using a number of your very interesting letters in the book-- in fact the first letter in the book, as it now stands, is one of yours.

I do have a small problem which I'd very much appreciate your help with. Actually it has two parts:

- 1) On one of your letters, the salutation (Dear --) and closing were somehow left off when the letter was copied here in N.Y. I need to know what these are. It is a letter dated June 14, from Oxford, and begins "It's been a confusing trip to Oxford..." and goes on to tell about the people you rode with, driving through Arizona, the tornado, reception and problems at Oxford. Do you know the letter I mean? I hope so!
- 2) You also wrote about your experiences at Oxford in a letter to your brother on June 17. This letter contains some information about your previous experiences with Negroes (at high school, etc.). What I would like to do is take this passage out of this letter and insert it in the letter of June 14 mentioned above, because there isn't room for both letters and they do cover the same experience. But the fact that you had known Negroes before makes your experience described in the letter of June 14 more significant. So I would like your permission to do this. Normally, an editor might do this kind of thing without asking but I preferred to consult you.

I am enclosing copies of both letters, with the passage marked in the letter of June 17 which I want to insert in the letter of June 14.

Would you let me know about this immediately? I'm enclosing a self-addressed postcard for reply.

Some of the volunteers have asked who is editing the book, so I case you're curious -- I was an editor at Simon and Schuster for years, then Literary Editor of The Nation until last week, & be running the SNCC office in NY after I finish the book. Miss. twice last summer, published a number of articles &