



Read the list in the box and answer the question that follows.

14 Identify and explain one physical effect and one environmental effect of the urbanization process.

Refer

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To: The United States Justice Department

It is with much regret that I present this information to you concerning myself. Whenever I attempt to reason logically about this matter, it grieves me deeply to realize that an individual, especially an American, the citizen of a free democratic nation, has to clamor with such procedures in order to try to gain just a small amount of his civil and human rights, and even after suffering the embarrassments and personal humiliation of these procedures, there still seems little hope of success. To be in an oppressed situation is not in itself very difficult, but to be in it and realize its unfairness, and then to have one's conscience compel him to try to correct the situation is indeed agonizing and often miserable.

Before going further, I want to state my immediate situation. I have applied for admission to the University of Mississippi. I have not been accepted and I have not been rejected. Delaying tactics are presently being used by the state. This is the important fact and the reason I am writing (one major reason) to you. Other Negro citizens have attempted to exercise their rights of citizenship in the past, but during the period of delay, that is, between the time the action is initiated and the would-be-time of attainment of the goal, the agencies of the state have eliminated the individual concerned. I do not have any desire to be eliminated.

Why do I feel that you will or should be concerned about me? I have no great desire to protect my hide, but I do hope to see the day when the million Negroes that live in the state of Mississippi will have no cause to fear as they fear today. High-ranking officials of this state, including the Lieutenant Governor during the absence of the Governor on his South American trip, have made public statements saying that the law enforcement agencies of this state will not be used to enforce laws as proclaimed by the federal courts. I have no reason to believe that they will protect citizens that seek to bring about such decisions; in fact, I believe that if they are used at all it will be to intimidate such citizens.

America is a great nation. It has led the world in freedom for a long time. I feel that we can and we must continue to lead in this respect. However, I believe that a greater use should be made of the Negro potential. In my state, this is impossible under the present setup. All of the professions (except teaching and preaching), nearly all of the technical fields or trades, and the Commissioned Officers rolls are not open to a Negro born in Mississippi. Instead of the restrictions being lifted, they are now more rigorously enforced. I feel that this is not in the best interest of our country and certainly not in the best interest of the Negro people.

At the present time much is being said by the radio and press about a Negro wanting to go to the University of Mississippi. Much is being made of prior attempts by Negroes to go to "all white" Mississippi schools. They elaborate on the fate of these individuals; for instance, the last one to try is now serving a seven-year prison term on trumped-up charges subsequent to his attempt to go to the school. If this is to be the fate of any individual who seeks to exercise his rights of citizenship, then I certainly believe that this is an undesirable situation.

My background: I was born on a small farm in Attala County, Mississippi, the seventh of thirteen children. I walked to school, over four miles each way, every day for eleven years. Throughout these years, the white school bus passed us each morning. There was no Negro school bus. I never had a teacher during grade and high school with a college degree. But I was fortunate, because I was able to go to school. Each day I passed by one of the largest farms in the county, and there I saw boys my own age and younger working in the fields who to this day cannot even read road signs. I have never known how I could help solve this situation, but I have always felt that I must do my best.

During my last year of high school, which was spent in Florida, I entered an essay contest sponsored by the American Legion, and I was a winner along with two white girls. The title of the essay was "Why I Am Proud To Be An American." My theme was that I was not proud because I was born with as many or more of the desirable things of life as the next man, but because in my country an individual has the opportunity to grow and develop according to his ability and ingenuity and because he is not restricted from progress solely on the basis of race. Basically, I still believe in this possibility.

I served nine years in the United States Air Force. All of this time was spent in the so-called "integrated" service; because of this experience I feel that there is no logical reason to justify denying a law-abiding citizen the rights of full citizenship solely on the basis of race.

What do I want from you? I think that the power and influence of the federal government should be used where necessary to insure compliance with the laws as interpreted by the proper authority. I feel that the federal government can do more in this area if it chooses and I feel that it should choose to do so. In view of the above information I simply ask that the federal agencies use the power and prestige of their positions to insure the full rights of citizenship for our people.

Sincerely,

JAMES H MEREDITH