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Letter: Request that President Boling confer an Honorary Doctorate of Letters Degree upon Alex Haley

Commission for Blacks

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April 29, 1977

Chancellor Jack E. Reese
The University of Tennessee
501 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37916

Dear Chancellor Reese:

I am writing on behalf of the Commission for Blacks. At its meeting held on Wednesday, April 27, it was announced that Alex Haley will be visiting Knoxville on May 19, 1977. While the Commission for Blacks does not know the plans the University has to honor Mr. Haley, there was a motion passed unanimously to request that you, President Edward Boling, and the Board of Trustees confer an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree or its equivalent upon Mr. Haley, a distinguished Black Tennessean and author of Roots. The Commission feels that The University of Tennessee is the most appropriate institution in the State to reward Mr. Haley for his prodigious achievements and contribution, not only to Tennessee but to America.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Betty J. Cleckley
Chairperson, Commission for Blacks

BJC/sjh

cc: President Edward Boling
Members of the Commission for Blacks