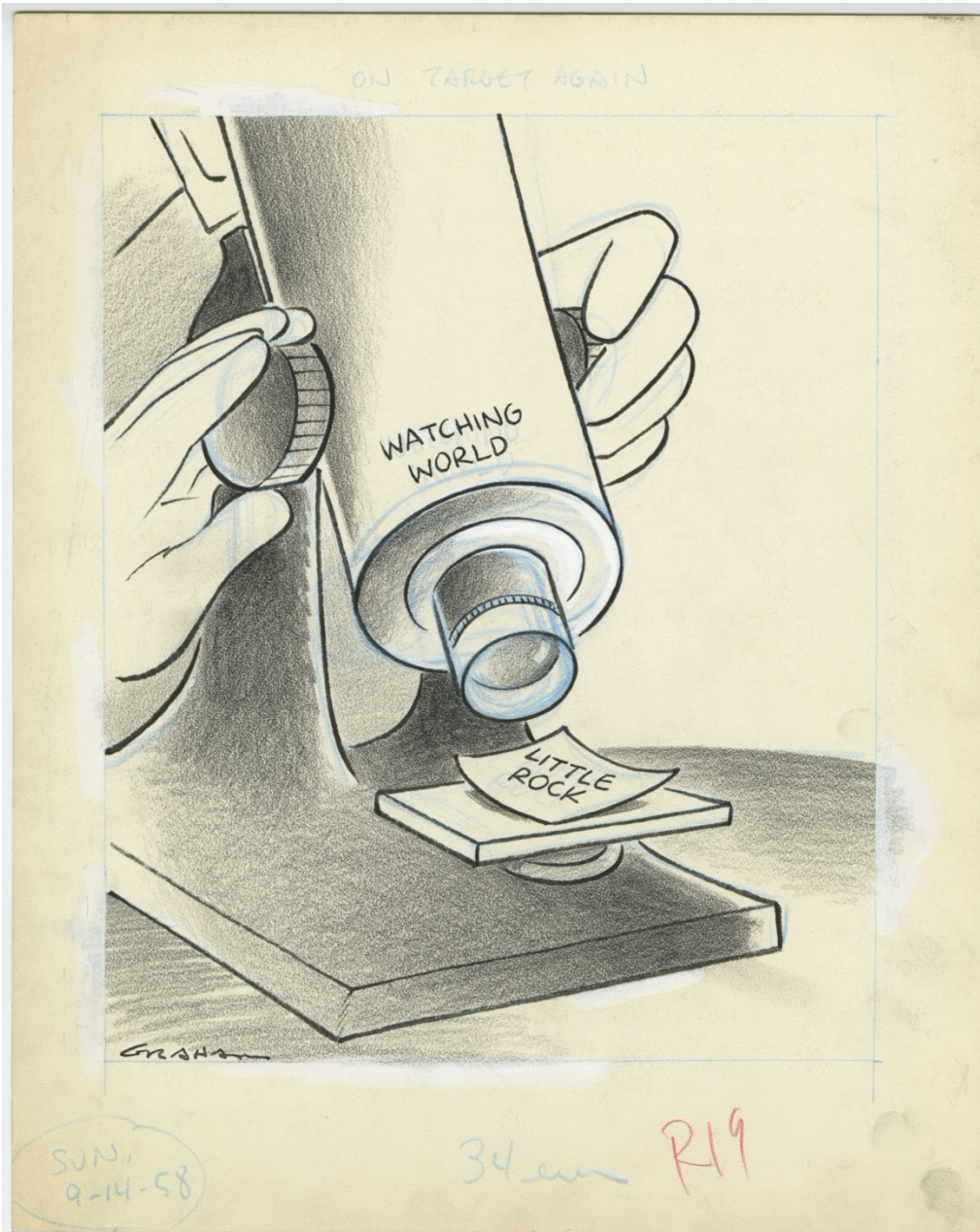


LITTLE ROCK MAKES GLOBAL HEADLINES (AGAIN!)



Little Rock Makes Global Headlines (Again!)

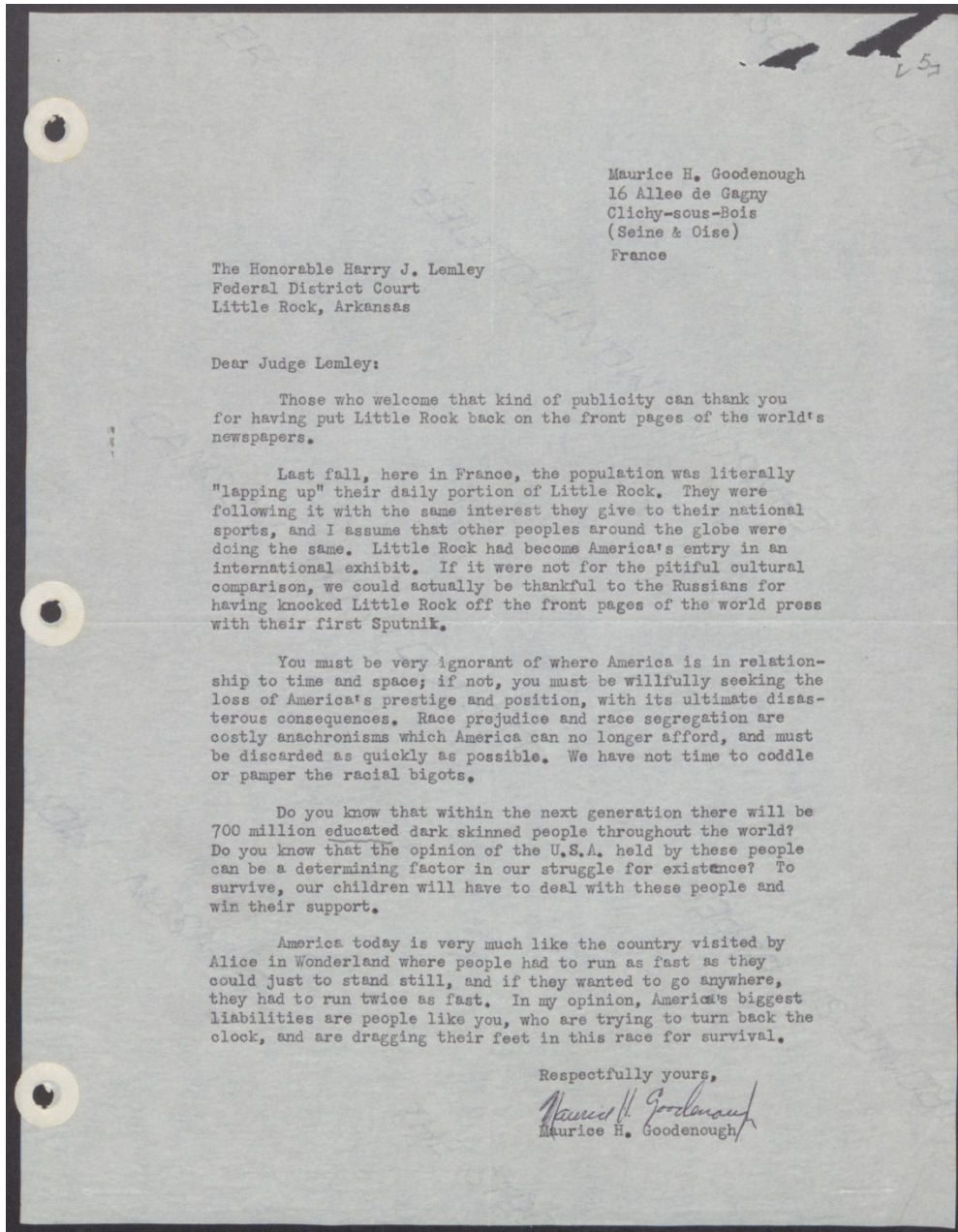


“On target again,” editorial cartoon by Bill Graham from September 9, 1958 (Bill Graham Cartoon Collection, 1945-1985)

LITTLE ROCK MAKES GLOBAL HEADLINES (AGAIN!)



CENTER FOR ARKANSAS
HISTORY AND CULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK



Maurice H. Goodenough
16 Allee de Gagny
Clichy-sous-Bois
(Seine & Oise)
France

The Honorable Harry J. Lemley
Federal District Court
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Judge Lemley:

Those who welcome that kind of publicity can thank you for having put Little Rock back on the front pages of the world's newspapers.

Last fall, here in France, the population was literally "lapping up" their daily portion of Little Rock. They were following it with the same interest they give to their national sports, and I assume that other peoples around the globe were doing the same. Little Rock had become America's entry in an international exhibit. If it were not for the pitiful cultural comparison, we could actually be thankful to the Russians for having knocked Little Rock off the front pages of the world press with their first Sputnik.

You must be very ignorant of where America is in relationship to time and space; if not, you must be willfully seeking the loss of America's prestige and position, with its ultimate disastrous consequences. Race prejudice and race segregation are costly anachronisms which America can no longer afford, and must be discarded as quickly as possible. We have not time to coddle or pamper the racial bigots.

Do you know that within the next generation there will be 700 million educated dark skinned people throughout the world? Do you know that the opinion of the U.S.A. held by these people can be a determining factor in our struggle for existence? To survive, our children will have to deal with these people and win their support.

America today is very much like the country visited by Alice in Wonderland where people had to run as fast as they could just to stand still, and if they wanted to go anywhere, they had to run twice as fast. In my opinion, America's biggest liabilities are people like you, who are trying to turn back the clock, and are dragging their feet in this race for survival.

Respectfully yours,

Maurice H. Goodenough
Maurice H. Goodenough

Letter received by Judge Harry J. Lemley after his decision to halt school integration at Little Rock, 1958 (Judge Harry J. Lemley Papers)