Nation (meredith): A air of nervous, tense expectancy hung over the sun-light Ole Miss campus at Oxford, 175 miles northeast of the the state capitol, Thursday morning. Meredith, holed up with an NAACP attorney in Memphis, 65 miles away, had not appeared, and no one knew when he was coming. But he was expected.

On the sunny concrete steps in front of the doric-columned, red brick Lyceum Hall at the head of a tree-shaded mall directly in front of the entrance to the college, dozens of students, freshmen in blue beanies with red "M's" on them, upperclassmen in sports shirts, bermuda shorts, white athletic socks, white sneakers, girls in wide, pleated skirts that fell above the knees, sat sunning and talking. Two TV cameras were set up on the steps and dozens of still photographers hung about. Inside, in a special pressroom set up by the college, dozens of reporters waited expectantly for something to happen.

Along oak-lined University Avenue, leading from the little down-town business section to the college campus, a heavy-set woman in a red skirt was sweeping the sidewalk and carloads of police, plainclothesmen, FBI agents, marshals drove along. At the railroad bridge leading onto the campus, two policemen stood in the middle of the street, directing traffic, answering questions. Over their heads a red and white banner reading "Welcome to your University" was stretched between two telephone poles. At the head of the circular mall (a one-way street goes up to the Lyceum, then back out), stands a 25-foot high stone statue of a confederate soldier leaning on his rifle, shading his eyes with one hand as he looks east. Beside it was a plain sign: "new students report to lyceum room 117 immediately after checking into the dormitory