

January 28, 1954

Internal Memorandum

Interview with Mr. Riefler

Mr. Riefler suggests that this operation is one of men in time and that it might be possible to get a series of organization charts from his personnel director which would give us the men concerned and with that and with a chronological file and a subject file we might be able to pull the thing together and key it all in. This is a slight deviation from what we are doing, but not very far off and it is an interesting comment that this particular mind sees it in this particular way.

Mr. Riefler also suggests that it would be wise, if possible, to start and read the annual Board Reports from the beginning. Thus far there has not been time for that.

This interview process is likely to be a waste of time on both sides; much more preparation is going to be necessary before interviews are usefully held. That is, interviews which do more than introduce the project and ask for cooperation. The two hours spent with Mr. Rounds yesterday was a clear illustration of what happens otherwise. Interesting anecdotes, interesting comment, but not a pinpointing to the matters in which Mr. Rounds alone is the authority who knows how and about the particular thing which he is being asked was done.

How this adequate preparation is going to be accomplished in a short time is really the problem. It may be necessary to take time off for heavy reading while the carding of people and dates goes on. This should certainly be discussed with both Mr. Woodward and Mr. Burgess. I understand here that Mr. Sproul is going West and will not be available for consultation in the immediate future so that he could not be called for help on this.