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March 28, 1955

Internal Memorandum

Conversation with Mr. Sam Carpenter in regard to the Hamlin Diaries in Washington

This memorandum is in reply to a letter of March 16th to Mr. Carpenter concerning a question asked by Professor Lester Chandler about the Hamlin Diaries.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the matter of time limit on the Hamlin Diaries was considered when they were put into the Library of Congress. So also were questions concerning the accuracy of the facts as reported by Mr. Hamlin. The conclusion was that considering the quality of the reporting, it would not matter whether someone saw the diaries ten years from the date of their deposit in the Library or twenty years. The peril of misinterpretation of facts was the same.

Mr. Carpenter was interested that Professor Chandler raised the question, but he saw no possibility of taking any other action. The accuracy of the facts has not been checked fact by fact and probably could not be. It is more a matter of interpretation most of the time and of personal bias.

I told this whole matter to Miss Brand at the Library of Congress, and she made a note to warn researchers that in this, as in other individual testimonies, facts should be checked. This seems to be all that we can do on this rather delicate matter.

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