

Tuesday
July 26, 1955

Internal Memorandum

Report of Mr. Woodward to Mr. Sproul on Meeting of Sub-Committee on Monographs
July 21, 1955

Mr. Woodward, with Miss Adams, reported to Mr. Sproul on the meeting of July 21st at Princeton. He said that the sub-committee did not have a very cheerful report, as they had not yet been able to arrive at a firm list of writers and monographs. They therefore suggested that the Committee report to the Rockefeller Foundation 1) that they had made a record of their considerable accomplishments under the grant, 2) that they had made extensive searches for a writer competent to undertake the history but thus far had not succeeded in securing one, nor had they yet covered the field in the search for monograph writers.

Under those circumstances they did not feel justified in going ahead in a piecemeal fashion. They thought it better to recommend first that the Committee stand on its record of accomplishments and return ~~the funds~~, the balance of the funds, to the Rockefeller Foundation; ^{or} that they ask permission to proceed with the monographic approach, confident that they could carry this through to a distinguished end; that this would include a conference in the early fall with academic people at Brookings who would be invited to come and talk about the project and bring names of possible writers.

Mr. Sproul agreed that things had come to the point where the Committee should do this. He did not believe that we could risk ~~frittering~~ the money away. He felt that we owed no apologies for work done (which has been considerable) but that the piecemeal approach was not tolerable.

Mr. Sproul suggested that the matter be discussed with Dr. Joseph Willits informally before it was presented to the rest of the Committee. Mr. Woodward suggested, and the suggestion was accepted, that a draft report be drawn up for the Rockefeller Foundation and circulated to the Committee for their approval and understanding. He and Dr. Calkins would then give Mr. Buchanan the

report early in September. Mr. Sproul agreed to this plan.

Mr. Sproul said that Mr. Burgess was leaving Saturday on a trip which would be part for vacation and would bring him back in September. (Mr. Burgess said by telephone later that he would not be back until the third week in September.) It was suggested that Mr. Woodward telephone him and tell him of this recommendation.

Mr. Woodward also reported that Dr. Stewart and Dr. Calkins felt that \$35,000 to Columbia would be too much money for the Committee to assign out of its own funds. He said that they wondered whether the Federal Reserve System might be interested in subsidizing this end of the work, and said that if not, he himself would be quite willing ^{to go} to the Sloan Foundation or to other foundations if the Committee continued in business.

Mr. Sproul replied that, considering the basis on which the System was allowed to use its funds, he doubted if they would feel justified in granting this much money to a single institution, a single library, no matter how much interested they were in the objects being pursued.

Mr. Sproul and Mr. Woodward both expressed their confidence that the Rockefeller Foundation would probably see fit to continue the grant under the revised plan. Both men agreed that so much progress had been made that the work must continue. The implication was that if the Rockefeller Foundation did not see fit to continue the grant, other funds would be found.

Mr. Woodward then returned to the Committee office and reached Mr. Burgess by telephone to report to him what had been said to Mr. Sproul. Mr. Burgess approved the general terms in which the report was made.

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