

December 2, 1955 ✓

Internal Memorandum

Interview with Miss Katharine Brand at the Manuscripts Division of the Library of Congress on the Old Problem of How Much Information This Committee Should Put on File about the Registers of Papers in the Library of Congress

The original plan was that we would copy those portions of the registers which concerned papers pertinent to the work of this Committee. A typist used to working in the Library and acceptable to the Library was to be hired and the registers copied or at least the portion of them concerned with the work of the Committee. Various attempts have been made over the course of more than a year in an effort to get at this, but each time when we seemed about to set a typist down to do the work, some difficulty would be imposed.

On this visit Miss Brand suggested for the first time that it might be possible to photostat some of the registers and save time. When I agreed warmly to that idea, she asked permission from either Mr. Land or Mr. Mearns and was told that, because some of the papers were restricted, this would not be possible.

The real crux of the matter is probably the fact that the registers of the Library of Congress are not themselves in such shape that they can be copied direct. A good deal of discrimination would have to be used in picking even from the best of them the material important to this Committee. The worst of them are inadequate and incomplete. The Library is quite justifiably reluctant to let those registers, even for unrestricted papers, be copied "as is" and go forth as Library of Congress work.

This time, therefore, Miss Brand and I went over perhaps half of what we need and put down notes (I put down notes) of what the registers contained. If I can get time to go back and refine these notes (and my own entry to the registers is in no way restricted except by the usual necessities of handling "restricted" papers), I can then take off personally and by hand the information that we desire. This seems a clumsy way of doing it, but I have already spent so much time on these

that a little more is well justified. Each time that I go to see Miss Brand I discover new facets of the thing, and their difficulties are great. The Library is so short of funds that they have had to employ unskilled help, and in at least one instance they had a boy who could not type make the listing and register for the Ogden Mills papers.

As this Committee provided the motive force by which the Ogden Mills papers were got to the Library of Congress, the authorities there have consented to our having that handwritten register copied in typing. They will thereupon have a copy and we will have a copy.

The Goldenweiser papers have a listing which was done by Mr. Kamarck. The Library will also allow us to copy that listing which is slightly different from the listing which he provided us some time ago. At least this will give us two in the form that can go into our own files, and the others can be got by patient hand work.

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