

filed Bill Martin

Dear Jim,

6/16/75

I'm sending you this copy of the letter by the friend of a friend based on which the friend was to have decided whether to make an effort with a publisher to get Post Norton out.

My friend is the one whose address I asked you to get Barbara to check out. This letter, which I had not then received, is one of the reasons. I know in essence what it would say.

It is irrelevant. And when people like these writers written irrelevant letters I do find myself wondering.

Martin begins by saying he is saying only what I had already said about the defects in the complete book for commercial purposes.

But at no point does he come in contact with the alleged purpose for which he said it would be write a condensed and popular version?

My reading of his letter does lead to the conclusions that he does believe the commercial success of what I proposed is at least possible.

I say or may not question my friend of the past on this.

At the moment I'm inclined not to.

I think it would be a waste of time and could not be productive.

As you know, from the first my proposals on this have been predicated upon the appearance of a popularization.

I fear that with all the efforts I have made along this line I'm going to have to abandon that effort.

There has not been a single advance interest from any of those who have professed interest.

And there is no reasonable question about the commercial success today or at any time for the past five years.

I say decide to write the other letter merely as a matter of record.

Right now I haven't time.

If and when all can find time I want her to type the index to Post Norton after I edit the cards. I'll not do this editing until she is read to type because if there are any questions I'll have forgotten what I had in mind. Once it is typed and there comes a time to decide on the contents of the appendix the typed index will be an accurate enough guide to the page space the index will take and then to the space available for appendix. It will be a simple enough job that to add the appendix to the index. Mostly mechanical work.

However, until there is proposal that it can be printed it is careful to even try to put the appendix together. Her material requires inclusion, as the Name of Transfer. There can be sure.

Hits with amending the completed text. As footnoting Hoover's death.

I don't know how comprehensible my notes on my private meetings with the Virginians and the Lowlanders is. I was so tired I could not finish supper last night. I fell asleep looking at 60 minutes and slept sitting up for several hours. However, it enabled us to get an early start this a.m. and to get through most of the accumulated mail. Now I'll attach the packages during the a.m. TV news.

If it is not clear, I believe these more experienced students have a legitimate complaint about changes in organization. I discussed this with Floyd, who was with entirely unresponsive about it. I suggested that he ask for the inclusion of some of those from other schools who were present by appear not to have met the others.

I do not think this is an immediate problem. I do think that the real organization can be around the Hill of Particulars when it is done if it is as good as I think it can be. The preparation will be a measure of what we can expect from those who are new to us.

Best,