

THE STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

816 STATE STREET / MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706 / JAMES MORTON SMITH, DIRECTOR

Office of Field Services

March 2, 1973

Mr. James H. Lesar
300 M Street, S. W. N700
Washington, D. C. 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

I am sorry that I didn't get a chance to speak with you while I was in Washington. I did try to phone you and got a recording saying "this phone is no longer a working number," and the operator said she had no listing for an attorney under your name.

At any rate, we are still interested in adding your papers relating to your legal activities to our collections. David Wrone informed us that you have many files concerning the assassination of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and of committees investigating the assassinations. I think that it would be helpful to you if I briefly describe the Society and its policies.

The Society is, by agreement with the University of Wisconsin, the collecting agency and the research center in American history for the University faculty and student body. This arrangement is largely responsible for the outstanding collection of manuscripts, books, pamphlets, government documents, newspapers, photographs, tapes, and films which we have acquired in American history. It explains, too, the national scope and continuing growth of our manuscripts library whose extensive resources also attract numerous researchers throughout the country and abroad.

A staff of thirteen full-time professional archivists and the Society's excellent physical facilities would assure proper protection, care, and servicing of the materials which you have. All manuscript materials are filed in acid-free containers and shelved in a restricted stack area with proper temperature and humidity controls. Our building contains stack space for 70,000 cubic feet of archives and manuscripts. With the exception of restrictions imposed by a donor, all materials

Harold -
she may
contact you
as I've
suggested it.
J.

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are accessible to researchers in a supervised reading room. Detailed inventories are prepared as a convenient reference aid for research. The Society provides a copy of the inventory to the donor for future reference use.

The Archives/Manuscripts Division includes a separate Iconographic Section which services photographs, sound recordings and films. A film vault and audio-visual research rooms are a part of the Society's facilities. Xerox and photo-duplication equipment are available in the building. The Society also operates a modern microfilm laboratory for producing archival microfilm unequalled in quality by any commercial laboratory.

The Society has statutory authority to restrict materials according to the wishes of the donor. The most common restriction is to stipulate that any researcher wishing to use a collection, must first receive written permission from the donor. This restriction is usually for a period of two to five years, and is renewable. The Society pays shipping charges for all materials donated to it.

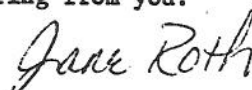
The materials which you have would be valuable additions to our holdings in contemporary history. Mr. Wrone also suggested that I ask you about other manuscript holdings which you know of; we would like to have as complete a collection as possible.

He also suggested that we ask you for offset copies of the many legal briefs filed in the several suits. I imagine that these would be included in your files, but as more are filed, after your papers have been placed in a research institution such as the Society, we would be interested in receiving them. If you do place the materials with us, we would want current additions to complete the collection.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 608-262-7304 any weekday from 8-5. I would be happy to be of any assistance to you.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,



Jane Roth
Coordinator
Contemporary Social Action
Collection

JR:jx
Enclosure

cc: David Wrone