

Dear Dave,

2/2/77

I wrote you that the head of the history department at local Hood College had not lost her interest. We discussed this several years ago but the local end got lost when the proxy went on to a larger college. (He married one of Memphis' then Mayor Henry Leeb's sisters - what a coincidence! And his and my getting together socially to work things out here was delayed by her absence at a fat farm. It was planned, again coincidence, by a friend of Colonel L. Robert Casterr's!)

Virginia Lewis, from Memphis, is quite a fine person. I believe you met Jerry Mc Knight, of her faculty, at Maryland. He is a fine fellow and a friend.

A series of unpredicatables have prevented our getting together from the beginning of the fall semester. We finally did today, even if her car could not make our lane. Jerry came in and got me, we walked out and then the three of us drove into town and chatted for a couple of hours.

While this was not enough time we did cover much and she saw the needs ^{to} have. (She is also a lawyer.) She did discuss some of them and what might be done. She cannot do these things but perhaps she can arrange them.

I went into the original verbal agreement with your historical association about a collaboration and this she seemed to like. ~~xxxx~~ I do think it would probably be better for both Hood and Wisconsin if something like this can work out. For example, if they can provide someone trained in library science to be a combination librarian who starts to get this energy in shape and can also be a research assistant.

She also is interested in the oral histories, as you were. I emphasized your facilities they do not have.

She saw immediately that if the costs can be shared it would help both. And enrich the archive.

The cost business if getting to the actual stage with Jim and me again. The money ^{is} deposited in Washington for him to draw on must be about exhausted. So I have an immediate need to finance the rest, by far the largest part, of the King acquisitions.

(Please keep this to yourself but I have a precious one, really one of several, in St. Edgar's hand. He said if we do not keep our mouths shut we are sunk.)

This is a hasty note before going to bed. I go to Washington for some medical reasons in the early a.m. and to spend some time with Jim. If there are any developments I'll let you know. But Virginia has some ideas on where to get some of the money.

I presume you noticed that the leak of the "report" of the DJ "Office of Professional Responsibility" on the King/Ray case managed to coincide to the day with the House consideration of continuing the assassinations committee. The feds do not dare risk even a phoney investigation.

Hastily,