Fellowship Com

November 22, 1940

Dear Doctor Johnson: I suppose we should be making up our minds pretty soon about the proposed new member of the Fellowship Committee. The names that have been most prominently suggested are F. D. Patterson, Ira deA. Reid, Charles Thompson, and Robert Weaver. My tentative opinion as to these men follows.

Patterson, of course, would be a splendid choice for any such committee but (a) I hesitate to ask him to take on another important and time-consuming assignment since, because of his position, he is already pulled in a thousand directions and has to respond to most of the calls; (b) I doubt whether he could or would give the time to reading the applications that is necessary. We suffer already from the fact that one or two members of the Committee usually do not have time to consider carefully the qualifications of each candidate.

Ira Reid is also an excellent man. I am not sure that he would bring much fresh viewpoint to the Committee. You and Will Alexander, I suspect, know many of the people that he knows and think a good deal as he thinks.

Charles Thompson seems to me close to the top of the list. He represents an area of interest and experience quite different from that of the present members of the Committee. He would give us representation from the important Howard group which we have never had very close to the inner counsels of many of the Fund's activities. Furthermore, he is a scholarly person. If he took the post I am sure he would give time and thought and judgment to it.

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Robert Weaver I incline to put Number 1. He is close enough to the Howard group to give us something of the representation we would get through Thompson. He is also of a quite different background and experience from any of the other members of the Committee. Since he is not directly connected with an academic institution, he would bring the viewpoint of public service and public affairs as well as of scholarship.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Will Alexander. I imagine he and you and I should make the selection.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN R. EMBREE

ERE:JW

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