

Fellowship Com.

March 26, 1946

Dear Gould: Mr. Embree reports that you have agreed to help out with the Fellowships, and I want to add my own thanks to his. It will be fine having you on the Committee, and also good to see you again after this long lapse of time.

As Mr. Embree pointed out, the Committee met last weekend and made a first weeding of the 191 candidates in this year's competition. The list has thus been considerably reduced and I am sending you only the applications of the Negroes who have tentatively been awarded grants or who are marked for further consideration and debate at the next meeting. I am, however, sending you all of the white Southern applicants' papers, including those who have been definitely eliminated. My reason is that I thought you might be interested in getting a complete view of the types of people and projects which come to us from white Southerners.

The procedure the Committee members usually follow in reading the applications is to give each one some sort of rating -- A, B, C -- and so forth. I think you'll find as you read them, that they group themselves into a top level of superior people, a middle layer of good people, and a sub-stratum of fair to mediocre. The first and the second groups of candidates are fairly easily dealt with. It is the middle group that causes the discussion.

In the fields of painting, creative writing, photography and music we have special outside juries who judge and rate the candidates, and I present their findings at the second committee meeting and the Committee makes as many awards in these fields as it sees fit, following pretty closely the jury recommendations. I am not sending you the painting and music people, since their papers are of less importance than their performance before the juries. I am sending along the creative writers, even though I do not have enough copies of their manuscripts to send. I thought you would be interested in their general proposals. Also

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Mr. Gould Beech

-2-

3/26/46

I am sending the white Southern artists since a couple of them are from Alabama and I remember that you have a special interest in this field. These digests are being sent by express under separate cover.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:RFL

Mr. Gould Beech  
c/o The Southern Farmer  
Montgomery, Alabama

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