

Fellowship Com

April 29, 1938

also to Johnson

Dear Moe: The papers the other day announced that the Japanese Premier had issued a formal apology to the Emperor, to the soldiers in the field, and to the Japanese people for being ill at a time when he was needed in the nation's councils. This exactly expresses my feelings to the fellowship committee. I apologize humbly and bow deeply for being absent from the last meeting of the committee. It is so good of you men to give your time that the least we officers can do is to be on the job at the crucial moments.

I am delighted with the results of the committee's work. I do not think my presence would have improved or altered the decisions. Nevertheless, I am sorry to have been absent.

As to the two or three cases which Mr. Paty said the committee wanted my judgment, it is as follows, as you will see from the records.

(a) All things considered, it seemed to me desirable to make the award to Mr. Belcher. I agree that three Negroes at the Yale School of Drama is crowding things a bit, especially since Yale is pretty squeamish about Negro students. I also agree that Belcher does not quite stand up to the other candidates in drama. Nevertheless, he has done such excellent work, especially in organizing the dramatic festivals and contests, and has such good promise that it seemed to me he should be kept on the list.

(b) As to Thomas Hart, I recognize that his purely scientific record is not distinguished. It is very

difficult to judge teaching by any objective standards. I know this man and his work well enough to be willing to take the gamble onto my own shoulders. If he flubs I am willing to take the same kind of ribbing from the other members of the committee that I so gleefully engage in when their candidates do not work out.

(c) I think my chief reservations in the whole list are the three young girls - Leila Smith Green, Viola Goin, and Ruth M. Smith. They seem to me much greater gambles than the other awards. I should have been willing to let them struggle on their own for another year or two and then take that one or two of them who continued to give the highest promise. Nevertheless, I go along heartily with the decisions of the committee, retaining the right to jeer if any of these girls prove to be mediocre.

Again my regret at being absent from the last meeting and my personal and official thanks to you men who have given so much to the fellowship program.

Very truly yours,

EDWIN R. EMBREE

ERE:JW

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