

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

MEMORANDUM ON AN EXPERIMENTAL PLAN FOR SCHOLARSHIP AID

I. General Statement

The officers and members of the Committee on Fellowships of the Julius Rosenwald Fund have been considering for some time a plan which would enable very exceptional senior Negro students to enter graduate schools or otherwise continue their education immediately after receiving the bachelor's degree. It is felt by some of the Fellowship Committee that quite a number of exceptional young students are lost when, immediately upon graduation, they get into blind-alley jobs and later do not have an opportunity for advanced study. It is also felt that the present technique for selecting Fellows is inadequate in finding the younger students. In an attempt to find exceptional brains in senior classes, therefore, we are asking several institutions to experiment with us in the following plan.

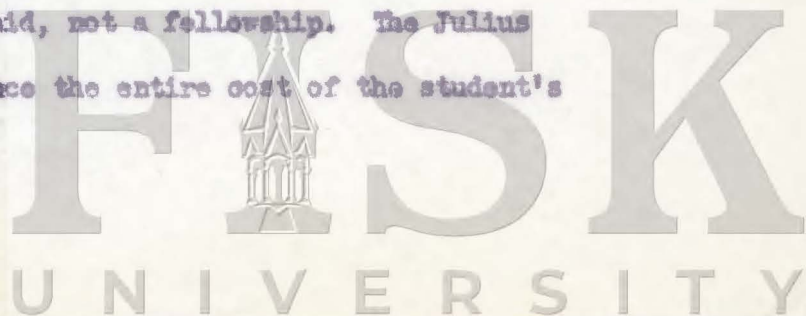
We request that no publicity be given this experiment either in student papers or on bulletin boards. We suggest that you canvass your staff for recommendations and that these recommendations be sifted to the number which will be presented to our Committee.

II. Eligibility for a Grant

Any member of a senior class except those planning to enter professional schools.

III. Stipend

The stipend will be limited to \$400. It should be clearly understood that this is merely scholarship aid, not a fellowship. The Julius Rosenwald Fund does not expect to finance the entire cost of the student's



first year in graduate school; it simply proposes to pay part of the educational costs for a few students of exceptional talent and ambition.

IV. Method of Selection

We ask that each institution select in its own way from one to five candidates whom it wishes the Fund to consider. Preliminary selections will thus be made at the institutions which the candidates are attending; no application should be sent directly to the Fund by a candidate. The candidates need not be scattered over the various fields of learning. We simply want to find the best brains, regardless of the subject on which the student may wish to concentrate.

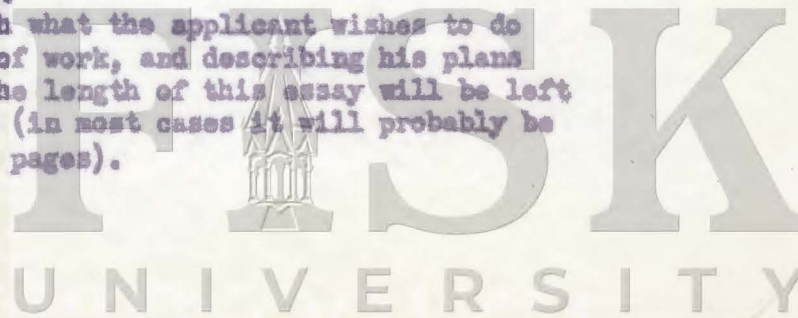
It is expected that seven institutions will be asked to participate in this experiment, and not more than twelve scholarship aid awards will be made in all. Attention is called to the fact that the final selections by our Committee will not be made on an institutional basis, and there is no assurance, therefore, that an award will be made from among the candidates whom any given institution recommends.

V. Applications

All applications for scholarship aid should be in our office not later than March 1, 1941.

Each candidate whom an institution presents for consideration is asked to file five copies of his application. An application will consist of the following:

- An application form, which will be furnished by the Fund
- A photograph
- An official transcript
- An essay setting forth what the applicant wishes to do during his year of work, and describing his plans for a career. The length of this essay will be left to the candidate (in most cases it will probably be from two to five pages).



The student will file his application with the person at the college who has charge of this matter.

Letters of reference

To the four items which the student presents should be added two or three references from members of the faculty who know the candidate and his ability, together with a letter from the person in charge of the program locally, giving us his estimate of the candidate. We request that these letters of reference be sent by the staff members to the person in charge of selection, and that they not be seen by the students concerned. We will appreciate your having five copies made of each of these letters of reference.

- - -

We cannot overemphasize the fact that the Fund is making an experiment in this type of award in an attempt to develop a technique for finding young students who are qualified. The kind of candidate we get this year will probably determine whether or not this kind of award will be made a part of our regular fellowship program. We recognize that we are asking a great deal of the person who takes charge of the preliminary selections at each institution, but unless we can have very careful and wise assistance from these institutional representatives the procedure fails before it starts.

November 15, 1940

