

ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Thelma Davis Ackiss

Dr. Caroline Ware, Professor of Social Economy-History, American University, Washington, D. C.

I think well of Mrs. Ackiss and of her proposed study. She is an able student and an effective person, with training in both law and history and with experience in sociological research. This is a combination of qualifications not frequently found. In the two years when I knew her as a student she grew and developed in grasp and in ability to handle increasingly complex and less conventional materials and topics. Although I have not seen her for some time, it is my impression that she has continued to grow in ability since she has been away from Washington. I have confidence that she will prove a candidate whom the Rosenwald Fund should be glad to sponsor.

Her project is a valuable one, I think. The title does not accurately state the study which she has in mind but rather the focal point around which the study will be built. I think that she is wise in choosing a concrete topic of this sort for the core of her study because it will serve to organize what could otherwise become an overwhelming mass of material. The field of investigation is fresh. She starts with personal familiarity with the area, and detachment gained from living outside.

My only criticism of her plan as presented is in the apportionment of time and perhaps in sufficient provision for examining rural conditions. A thorough study of at least one of the all-Negro communities would be a particularly valuable contribution. Such a study should include some comparison with mixed communities of similar size and economic structure. These points can be taken care of by a slight replanning of her time as she gets into the work.