

Fellowship
Com.

February 26, 1946

Dear Arna: I have been hoping to hear that you would be able to make the March 23-24 meeting. Bob Weaver is leaving for the Ukraine and Doctor Johnson has already left for Japan, so without you and Bill Paty it will be an intramural affair.

Enclosed is the first installment of this year's saga, some sixty applications. A lot of them are first rate, and we have one literary candidate, Willard Motley, a Chicago Negro writer whom you probably know, who strikes me as being one of the most exciting cases I have ever seen.

I have a question which I want to raise and get your eye or nay on. You may recall that before I left I was instructed to write men who had been given grants, but relinquished them in toto in order to enter the service or take war-connected jobs, inviting them to reapply when their service was over. There were about nine such people. One of them, William Mitchell, a white southerner to whom \$1500 was granted for study of political science, gets out of the army this week and wants to begin work at Princeton in March. What I want to know is this: Would you agree to giving him his former grant now, or would you prefer to have him make a regular application and take his chances with the others and be notified in May?

My own feeling is that we have a definite obligation to these people; that if they were once thought worthy to be Fellows they probably still are; and that to refuse them now would be both morally and psychologically bad. I would like to have the authority to give them their old grants whenever they apply.

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Mr. Arna Bontemps -2-

2/26/46

Civilian life still fits like a loose shirt,
but I am growing back into it. Know you must be up to your ears
in the play. Let us hear from you.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:RFL
encl.

Mr. Arna Bontemps, Librarian
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