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Cornell University
Civil Liberties

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

BOARDMAN HALL

May 26, 1944

Dr. Joseph H. Willits
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York 20, New York

JHW	MAY 29 1944		
RFE		RFE	6/1/44

Dear Dr. Willits:

President Day has given me the good news that the Rockefeller Foundation has granted the funds for the support of my studies in Civil Liberties which you and I discussed earlier in the year. I wish to express to you, and to the other gentlemen who shared in making the grant, my very sincere appreciation of this generous aid. I am sure you realize that I shall make every possible effort to see that the funds are usefully employed. I think I am fully aware of the business procedures which should be followed in the handling of the money, and these will be carefully followed.

There is one relatively minor point with respect to organizing this work about which I feel I should like your advice. I discussed the matter with President Day and he felt that it would be well to raise the point with you. This related to the kind and degree of publicity which might appropriately be given to my work in making use of the funds which the Foundation has put at my disposal. My feeling is, and it is a very strong one, that there should be no newspaper publicity of any kind. The enterprise is not one which aims to attract public attention, nor would it be aided by doing so. Furthermore, a newspaper story to the effect that I had received money to carry on work in the field of civil liberties would almost certainly bring on my neck every crackpot in the country who might feel that he could make some demand upon me.

It does seem, however, that a dignified statement might appropriately be made in one or two of the professional journals, and I have in mind The American Political Science Review particularly, in which the existence of this enterprise and something of its purpose might be set forth. This would, of

Dr. Joseph H. Willits - 5/26/44 - p. 2.

course, be of real assistance, since it is important for me to make contact with as many scholars as possible who might be interested in working on civil liberty problems.

I think, also, that a simple sort of letterhead might well be designed for the handling of my correspondence in this work. I had thought of merely calling the thing, CORNELL RESERACH IN CIVIL LIBERTIES, listing myself as "Director" and giving my office address.

The precise point which I wanted to raise with you was whether the Foundation has any policy with respect to having its name used in such public announcements as I have referred to in the last two paragraphs. Would it be permissible or desirable to announce in The American Political Science Review or to state on the letterhead that this work is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation? I had picked up the impression, without being sure of the source, that the Foundation in general preferred to be kept out of such publicity. If this is true, I shall, of course, gladly comply. If, on the other hand, there is no objection to stating that the Foundation has given me this support, it might lend a little prestige to the undertaking to do so. This might seem like a trivial point, and perhaps merely a point of good taste, but I am anxious to observe rigidly all of the canons of good taste, if I know what they are.

I hope to be in New York in the late spring or early summer, and when I am, I should like very much to come in and talk to you a little further about some of the concrete problems which have come to the surface since I saw you in January.

May I assure you again of my very genuine appreciation of the grant which has been made and my personal gratitude to you for your generous interest in my work.

With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Robert E. Cushman

Robert E. Cushman

REC/pp