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DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

BOARDMAN HALL

January 23, 1948

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

Dear Dr. Willits:

I do not know what the status of the Hutchins' proposal for a research project on the subject of the control of subversive activity is at present, or whether it has any status. My point in writing you is to call attention to an article by Walter Gellhorn in the October Harvard Law Review subjecting to the most devastating critical analysis the report of the Committee on Un-American activities on "The Southern Conference for Human Welfare".

The only relevance this has lies in the fact that Gellhorn has here done the kind of job which, in my judgment, is most useful in this area. He has taken up this committee report practically paragraph by paragraph and has shown that the report is pretty obviously dishonest, as well as stupid. He calls nobody any names and indulges in no invective of any kind, but he has done the kind of research which leaves no room for answer.

If you should still be thinking of the possibility of setting up the kind of program which Hutchins' proposes, this article sets up a standard for those engaged in such a study; furthermore, Gellhorn, by doing this job, has unquestionably made himself a person who ought to be thought of as one who might lend a hand. You probably know him and if you do, you are aware that he is one of the ablest young lawyers in the country, whose reputation as a scholar is exceedingly high.

If you have abandoned any thought of doing anything with the Hutchins' proposal, this letter is of course not much to the point, but I thought I might bring the matter to your attention while it was fresh in my mind.

With best regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Robert E. Cushman.
Robert E. Cushman

REC/pp

Telephone
I am sending this along in spite of the fact that I covered most of it in our conversation this morning.