

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

noe - San Klaus
SD 2003
Cornell University
Civil Liberties

FROM: JHW

APR 23 1948

DATE: February 11, 1948

TO:

RBF	FEB 13 '48	RRA
JAW		JAW
RBF	FEB 17 '48	RRA
JAW		JAW

COMMENTS:

Excellent! Go to it!

WWS HAM, CIB

RRA

approve the idea; I'll proceed.

carbon filed -

100

Fordick
(memo)

SUBJECT: Cushman's study of civil liberties

I attach the proposal from Robert Cushman for a study of the problems involved in the control of subversive activities in the United States. The statement breathes the cool and balanced judgment of Robert Cushman, and I would be prepared to go ahead, either at the April or May meeting, after we have discussed in more detail the plan and budget (the present budget estimate is for a sum of from \$50-65,000).

I called John Dickey on the phone to get his judgment on Robert Carr, who was Secretary of the President's Commission on Civil Liberties, and is considered by Cushman as a major lieutenant in this study, if the funds are granted. Dickey spoke in the highest terms of Carr. He has cool judgment, discusses facts objectively, is sensitive to the problem but does not gallop off on his emotions, and did a splendid job on the President's Commission of which Dickey was a member. Dickey's recommendation of Carr is unqualified.

JD also reported when I asked him for his judgment concerning such a study that Carnegie Corporation had approached him about six months ago with the same proposal which Chancellor Hutchins had brought to us. Dickey then recommended against it, partly on account of the auspices, and partly on account of the fact that there has not been enough experience to provide data for such a study. Dickey said that then he was not negative on such a study, but merely neutral.

2/11/48

The substitution of Cushman for Hutchins would remove his reservation about auspices, and he felt that, with the Review Board and Roberts Commission for the Atomic Energy Commission and other data, the material for such a study would ^{now} be available, so that his second reserve at the time of his talk with Carnegie Corporation is now removed (I take it that this would indicate that we should talk with Devereux Josephs ~~X~~ before proceeding).

If, after reading this letter and statement, you continue to approve the general idea, I shall then take it up, as you suggested, with WWS, CIB, and Henry Moe because, as I explained, I would not want to proceed with this further unless we have a pretty good prospect of favorable action by the Board. Are there any others to whom I should mention it?

JHW
JHW

JHW talked with Charles Dollard; CC is doing nothing in this field.

JHW:MK

Attachments