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**Columbia University**  
**in the City of New York**

[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

January 14, 1949

MA 73 1949

Dr. David H. Stevens  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
49 W. 49th Street  
New York City

Dear Stevens:

Following your kind suggestion, I am writing you about the problems of the Jefferson biography, to which the Foundation has contributed so generously since June 1, 1944. The present state of the work is described in my progress report of December 20, 1948, and from this you know that the immediate and pressing problem is that of finishing Volume II. It was this that I had specifically in mind when I talked with you briefly on December 31.

Since nearly all the research work on this volume is done, the major problem is to find means to devote the largest possible amount of my own time to it in order to finish the writing. Perhaps I have seemed slow in the actual writing, but I am still convinced that mine is a literary as well as a scholarly task and that the continuing value and influence of the book will be contingent not only on its content but also on its form. If I can give to the volume the whole of the coming summer vacation (almost four months), and somewhat more than a third of my time during the following academic year, I can probably finish it by or before the summer of 1950, so that it can be published in the fall. From the publishing point of view it is important that the gap between this and the first volume should be no greater than that (two and a half years), and it is even more important that there be continuity in my own labors on this large project, with the least possible loss of momentum.

Since the expiration of the supplementary grant from the Foundation on October 1, 1948, I have been rather discouraged, but the interest shown by Dr. Freeman and Mr. Barnard, as well as by yourself, has been most heartening. Therefore, I am now emboldened to inquire what your attitude would be toward an application for another supplementary grant like the one that expired last fall. As you will recall, this was for \$5,000, of which the sum of \$4,000 was for compensation with \$1,000 for expenses. Such a grant, beginning let us say on June 1, 1949, and allotted in much the same way, would meet the immediate necessity of freeing my own time sufficiently to see me through Volume II. This would carry the whole work to the second of its major dividing points (Jefferson's election as president in 1801, when he was nearly fifty-eight), and it ought to be a more impressive contribution to American history than Volume I. You already

have a large stake in it, and, insofar as it can belong to a sponsor, it belongs to you.

Though you already know it, I should add for the record that my present grant for expenses from Columbia will run to October 1, 1949. I hope I can get this extended in part at least, but even so I should have no more provision for clerical assistance than I shall actually need for that volume, and none for research assistance except for minor jobs on an hour-basis.

Probably I should be further along at the present moment if I had not done all the research work myself - partly from necessity and partly from choice. It now seems clear that I must rely more on research assistance in connection with the last two volumes. I have discussed this matter at considerable length with Dr. Freeman, and I intend to work out, during the next year, a long-range plan on this basis.

This I say for your reassurance about the project as a whole. The present letter relates only to the immediate problem of Volume II which must be completed on essentially the old basis. I hope and believe that the method will be justified by the quality of the work, but I want you to know that in my future planning I shall be more acutely conscious of the time factor. Meanwhile, a one-year grant such as I have suggested would guarantee the completion of more than half of the whole work. It would be a godsend to me and would make me even more grateful than I am already to you and the Foundation.

As I believe I told you, I shall be out of town from January 20 until about February 1, but after the latter date I shall be available for such consultation as you may desire.

With best wishes,

Yours very sincerely,



Dumas Malone