

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

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FROM: JBS<sup>stewart</sup>

DATE: November 24, 1954

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COMMENTS:

Area studies

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SUBJECT:

CBF'S PAPER ON AREA STUDIES

I have read CBF's paper; and I find myself agreeing fairly substantially with what he has written. Let me outline herein some points that come to mind.

I. Area Studies can be regarded--and this, I think, generally has been the case--as a type of career training, somewhat similar to that available in law schools and medical colleges. The result of this is two-fold: (A.) The subject-matter is regarded as outside the purview of the ordinary college student and of the person planning to teach in American schools or colleges; and (B.) The administration, professors, and students of the Area Studies institute are regarded as only sidereal appendices, far from the main affairs of university life.

Some of the results are (a.) that Area Studies programs frequently do not sustain sterling scholarship; (b.) that the graduates are liable to the vicissitudes of the market; and (c.) that the program (and professors) are regarded by the rest of the academic program as expensive luxuries foisted upon the university.

II. Area Studies can be regarded--and this would seem to be CBF's view--as a legitimate, even necessary, part of ordinary twentieth-century college education. I wonder, however: (A.) if the dangerous separatism, referred to above, might not be perpetuated by the establishment of separate endowments for Area Studies; and (B.) if the endowment of chairs in suitable subjects within the main university structure might not help to destroy the prevalent notion that one has to be looking forward to a State Department career before one can study subjects pertaining to areas outside the North Atlantic area.

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JBS:EAS