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Agriculture

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is the draft of our proposed report on agriculture to Mr. Barnard. Paul and I have spent two days in assembling it and it now represents, we believe, a true synthesis of the ideas presented at the May meeting of the Advisory Committee and of the statements later submitted in individual drafts. We have taken not only ideas, but also phrases, sentences, and entire paragraphs from each preliminary draft and have incorporated these in what seemed to us to be an appropriate place in this draft. There have, of course, been some changes in wording to attain coherence and unity, but you will have no difficulty I think in recognizing your own contributions to this draft. Only in the final recommendations have we deviated substantially from those of the individual drafts. Those proved to be so numerous, detailed, and specific, that it seemed better to us to embody them all into a few broad, general recommendations, which if accepted as Foundation policy would provide ample scope for implementing the more specific suggestions.

Mr. Barnard has been informed that this report is being prepared and he has expressed his interest in it and his hope that it will help him and the Trustees to formulate a policy with respect to agriculture. Since he is looking forward to having the report in his hands before the meeting of the IHD Commission on June 29, it is essential that the final draft be whipped into shape as soon as possible.

I very much hope that you can within the next day or two go over this draft. If there are any issues of policy or real content which you think should be modified, we of course want you to say so as frankly and explicitly as possible. I do not mean to exclude the possibility of your commenting also on more detailed matters, such as phraseology. But the phraseology has already been pretty carefully examined, especially with respect to its probable psychological value for the Board of Trustees.

We hope very much that you can get your reply back to us on Monday or Tuesday of next week. And will you please indicate whether you think it is desirable that still another draft (presumably the final one) be submitted to you for approval? If you have little or no complaint with the draft as it is now before you, you might feel that it is perfectly reasonable to let Paul and me make the small changes which will result from this set of comments and then proceed with the statement as official. On the other hand, if you would prefer to see the next draft for approval before making it final, do not fail to say so.

The only reason that we are putting on all of this pressure is that, unless I misread the smoke signals badly, thinking is moving forward

June 14, 1951

2

rather rapidly, and I am convinced that it is important for us to get this statement in to Mr. Barnard as promptly as possible.

Sincerely,

Warren Weaver

Dr. Richard Bradfield  
De. Paul C. Mangelsdorf  
Dr. E. C. Stakman  
Dr. J. G. Harrar  
Dr. Harry M. Miller, Jr.

NW:aeb

Enclosure

