

700
War
(General)

STAFF CONFERENCE

Thursday, November 16, 1939

Present: RBF, TBA, AG, SHW, WAS, GKS, DHS, JM, AJW, RAL, GJB, WW, NST.

Docket for Trustees meeting

RBF This should have a program to present in connection with the present war situation. Wondering whether in presentation the officers could not talk of plans or projects which they are not ready to recommend specifically. AG, being asked to comment, not at all sure we could not put together excerpts from letters which would convey the thing that impresses him - namely that the Europeans are doing their best to keep our kind of work uninterrupted. That is an important thing. An illustration is the Royal Society's list which from 87,000 names selects 7,000 as persons whose services may be called for but whose work should not be interrupted until they are urgently needed by government.

An alternative might be for the officers to speak division by division of their plans. RBF had thought of that as perhaps taking place on Tuesday.

SHW believes it is an advantage to talk with the Trustees at this time when the subject can be general policy rather than specific proposals. In the SS there are some important questions of strategy. Cites an example from England.

WAS: In the IHD the outstanding thing is how little disturbance there is in Europe. Program practically unchanged. Staff member remaining in Roumania, no change in Turkey; even in Finland proposals are still on the books which the Finns expect to carry out. There is good opportunity to explain that the program is the same as ever. Fears the pressure of some huge project sought as gesture. War not active enough for such programs. AG: This is not true in other fields (in MS and NS each a project in Finland is in abeyance). Feels there is certain psychological risk in the assumption of unchanged program. It was pointed out that the IHD has been working chiefly in countries not yet affected. WAS: Is going on the supposition that each project will be carried as long as possible rather than to encourage cessation because war is in progress. WW: Another difference may be that IHD work is of more practical necessity. In other fields many things are going out in which other divisions of the RF have interest. It is often a question with governments what they shall retain.

DHS: In the H there will be many such losses. National Central Library project an example. Many things, active and necessary in peace time, will come to need assistance and present opportunities to his division for new work. In little countries cultural values will

be depleted. Popular library programs will be an excellent move. Filming of rare documents when possible and popular dissemination of knowledge by radio, which will mean starting new organizations. Opportunities in H will be not so much saving men as small grants for saving organizations and institutions.

RBF will draft statement on war aims. Would like directors prepared to speak of it in concrete illustrative way. Suggests five minutes each.

RBF Liberalizing grants in aid. How far are we prepared to go? Agreed that the Paris limit be raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000, the New York limit and the time limits to remain as at present. WW would like it understood that there will be exceptions to areas of concentration and that there should be removal of limitations on sub-fields. AG: If we could phrase to Paris our sentiments in point of their being free to consider excellent opportunities not within field, that would be preferable to removing limitation. Specific illustrations were cited by WW and SHW of exceptions to previous techniques. It was agreed that there shall be no insistence upon limitation to field in grants in aid for Europe and Europeans. This was described by WW as meaning that the grant in aid is no longer a mechanism to serve program but is now a mechanism to serve science.

There followed discussion of the amounts proposed for fellowships and grants in aid in 1940 and the reasons for differences in scale. It was agreed that sums for fellowships shall be at the rate of \$50,000 in each division, with the understanding that a report may be made in April with requests, if needed, for further funds; that grant in aid funds shall be made more uniform and shall be less than \$175,000 and more than \$75,000.

RBF questions whether there is not a little danger of running a lot of our war or emergency work through grants in aid, thus covering them from the scrutiny of the Trustees and suggests bringing to the Trustees illustrative items. SHW suggests the alternative of the officers' commenting orally at meeting upon the more important grants, and it was later suggested that these be either the emergency items or items, either emergency or regular, selected for such presentation.

TBA Deposed scholar report. Proposes no further grant but a divisional treatment of future cases under the grant in aid device. This was agreed with the expressed opinion that the history of this project might be an interesting subject for Trustee discussion. RBF has expected to refer to it in an item in the docket.

RBF questions the directors as to how far they would be able to report on the list of projects in Europe. IHD, NS and H could make fairly full reports. MS and SS not prepared to report on a large proportion. Agreed that this material is an important part of a presentation on the Foundation's war program.

Fellowships

WW raises question of whether the fellowship mechanism might be liberalized to care for men who do not travel except perhaps to move from one department or institution to another. There was some discussion with a decision to change the fellowship mechanism as little as possible, and endeavor to care for the first exceptions under grants in aid.