

MAR 12 1928

March 12, 1928.

To: ~~Colonel Woods~~
Mr. Fosdick.
From: L. B. Dunham.
Subj. Sex Committee -- National Research Council -- Hamilton Project.

This is not a final report or a statement of my final conclusions relative to the above subject. It is an attempt to briefly record the present situation and indicate the development of my thoughts on the subject as a result of such investigations and consideration of the problems as I have been able to undertake. More than that it is a request for advice and assistance of which I am urgently in need.

History

Mr. Zinn tells me that about 1920 he conceived the idea of making more fundamental studies of sex subjects than had been undertaken up to that time. Work was definitely started about January 1, 1922, Dr. Davis having made the sum of approximately \$7,000 available for the work. The project was brought under the auspices of the National Research Council, Division of Medical Science and Mr. Rockefeller gave \$25,000 for the year commencing July 1, 1922. For the year commencing July 1, 1923, Mr. Rockefeller pledged \$50,000. July 1, 1924, an increased appropriation was made over a two year period and commencing July 1, 1925, an appropriation of \$200,000 was made over a period of three years. Mr. Zinn says that his memory may not be exactly accurate as to the dates and amounts, but the foregoing is his actual story and the final figure we know to be correct.

Accomplishments.

The research work has been farmed out to various members of the committee and others. The committee at the present time consists of Cannon of Harvard Medical School, Yerkes of Yale, Dr. Katharine B. Davis, F. R. Lillie of Chicago, Wissler of the Natural History Museum, Ogburn of Chicago and possibly some psychiatrist to take the place of the late Dr. Salmon. There can be no doubt as to the outstanding eminence of this committee. The results of their investigations have been set forth in some 160 pamphlets; a large number of which, if not all, are summarized in the attached reports. I find myself totally unable to estimate the value and significance of this work, nor is there any one on my staff of the Bureau of Social Hygiene who is competent to do so. Dr. Pierce of the Rockefeller Foundation in his report on this matter says in part, "I do not see the immediate practical application of the results of this work, though practical application may emerge in the course of time." He then goes on to say, "I can recommend most strongly that aid for this work be continued as research of the highest type."

Present Status.

As has been stated the present appropriation will expire July 1st of this year. Mr. Zinn and Miss Davis feel strongly that a decision as to the future appropriations for the work should have been made before this. They express fears that unless the future is provided for the staff gathered by the various persons in charge of investigations will be broken up. As indicative

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of the urgency of reaching a decision in the matter, Mr. Zinn telephoned me on March 8th in regard to a letter he had just received from Dr. Lillie. I declined specifically to make any comment on the letter or to comment on the proposed reply which Mr. Zinn read me on the telephone. I did tell Mr. Zinn that if he would send me a copy of the letter, I would see that it was given consideration as soon as possible. The letter Mr. Zinn referred to was that from Dr. Lillie, dated March 2nd, copy of which is hereto attached. I might state that during an interview with Mr. Zinn at this office on February 20th I called his attention to the fact that we had no recent or in fact any direct communication setting forth the program of the committee or its estimate of financial requirements that will be needed to carry on the work. I have spoken to Mr. Zinn about this once or twice since then. He tells me he is drawing up a program, submitting it to his committee, also preparing a tentative budget.

He expressed the belief that the financing for the work should be provided for a period of five years, the committee reserving the right at the end of four years to apply for funds for an additional five years. He estimated the expenses for the first five at approximately \$750,000, and stated that this did not include any provision for extensions of the work which he felt should be made. In other words, we are asked to consider a program that may well take a minimum of ten years' time and financial obligations of at least \$1,500,000. Up to the present time, the work has been conducted under the auspices of the National Research Council with the technical exception of the Hamilton project toward the expenses of which Mr. Rockefeller made a pledge of \$25,000. This undertaking was felt to lie outside the scope of the National Research Council and for that reason they were unwilling to directly sponsor it. However, because of its interrelationship with the work of the Sex Committee, the Council was willing to accept an advisory position. It is my understanding that Mr. Zinn and his committee feel that an increasing amount of the work of the Sex Committee is apt to extend into fields outside the scope of the National Research Council and therefore feel that the committee should be financially an independent organization. It is also my understanding that a tentative program setting forth the work of the committee has been submitted to the Council, received the approval of the Division of Medical Research, but that this Division has concurred in the view of the Sex Committee to the effect that the work should be carried on independently of the Council. It is my understanding that this decision was reached in part on the following grounds:

1. The Council's scheme of operation is to undertake only the research work which can be completed within the period of the grant, or which during that time can attract financial support for its continuance; and,
2. That it concurred with the Sex Committee in the belief that an increasing amount of its work will in the future extend into the field of the social sciences and, therefore, out of the jurisdiction of the Council.

Tentative Conclusions.

1. That this whole undertaking is one that falls primarily within the field of medical research.

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2. That it may or may not be of great public benefit.
3. That it is unsound from a business standpoint to contemplate embarking upon so far reaching an adventure involving such large expenditures unless the undertaking is conducted under the auspices of some organization like the National Research Council or some great medical center.

Recommendations.

1. That the Sex Committee be advised that the Bureau of Social Hygiene will not make appropriations for this work after July 1, 1928.
2. That as soon as the committee's revised program and budget is received that it be referred to a joint committee of representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation, General Education Board, The Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research and possibly the Memorial, with instructions to this committee to consider the project and to make recommendations as to whether it should be carried on by any one or more of the organizations which they represent.

Suggestion for Consideration

As far as I can find out the British Isles are the one place in the world where work of this character can be carried on by scientists of the highest standard and the results of their work made available to the general public without serious governmental interference.

There seems to be a considerable unanimity of opinion to the effect that Dr. Crew of the University of Edinburgh is the outstanding man in this field in the whole world. Crew's work with animals is well supported by organizations interested in stock breeding. He finds possibilities for carrying this work over into the field of humans. The stock breeders will not provide the funds. He has secured an assistant who he feels is extraordinarily able and well qualified to do this work. He wants assistance and he wants the work put on a permanent basis. To accomplish this result he needs an endowment of approximately \$100,000. The possibility of thus erecting a bridge under such preeminent leadership from the animal field to the humans seems worthy of most careful consideration. I would suggest the undertaking be submitted to the afore mentioned committee for recommendation.

Personal Opinion.

The Bureau of Social Hygiene moved into its present offices February 1st. It has declined to make a public statement as to its future plans or take any action that would solicit submission of projects within its own particular field. Nevertheless, it now has on hand more undertakings of such a nature as to bring them clearly within its scope and of a kind that is understood by its staff and which have general significance. Up to the present time, we have not asked for necessary financial support to carry on these undertakings or to permit the

Then it was
effectively
dismissed.

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small increase in the staff which I feel is necessary. I feel strongly that Mr. Rockefeller's funds will be most effectively expended and result in the greatest benefit to humanity if our field of interest is restricted to those subjects concerning which our personnel is informed. It is my understanding that this is a rough approximation of Dr. Rose's viewpoint with which I am in complete accord.

Laurence B. Blumhau

LBD:MN

*Mr. Dunham
let's confer.
aw.*

March 15, 1928

To: Arthur Woods
From: R. B. Fosdick

I have read Dunham's memorandum and I should like to make these observations:

(1) I don't think I ever quite understood Zinn's work. I took
& opinion
the information of others that it was valuable.

(2) I think that Dunham should talk with Vernon Kellogg of the National Research Council, who has been closely interested in the project.

(3) I cannot imagine that the Rockefeller Foundation, or the General Education Board, or the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, or the Memorial would ever finance a project of this kind, and I don't think anything would be gained by referring it to them.

(4) I find myself strongly of the opinion that our funds would be most effectively expended if our field of interest were restricted to those subjects concerning which our personnel is informed, or at least partially informed.

RBf.