

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

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Dear Tom,

Now that it's official I ought to send some official congratulations, not only on the outcome, but also on the whole process of producing an outcome. I'm not sure all the players were out to make it easier for you to decide, for we all had our various greedy hopes. I think you did a fine job, and that it will all turn out to be a GOOD THING.

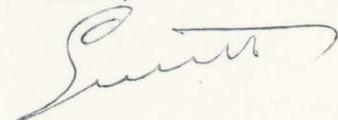
As I reported on the phone, the NEH notification came through, and I then got the Graduate School to clarify their somewhat ambiguous notification of December. The result is that what I get is the equivalent of my regular salary (whatever it will be in next year's rather problematical budget), made up of the NEH, the 3000 from the ASCS (with no accounting taken anywhere of the value of the lodging provided me), and the balance from the Graduate School, as long as the balance isn't above 5/12 of my then normal), plus small, but sufficient, allowances for travel and research expenses. Add to that the lower taxes for all years beginning with 1986, and subtract some expenses for running two households, as it were, and I'm doing very well indeed.

This is 14 January 1986, 15:51, and we finished a meeting of the Department a while ago. I think all were sorry not to have got you, and ready to see what could be rescued. The proposal to try to hire John Bennet (SEE, I CAN DO IT!) provoked less discussion than I thought it might, and I saw no reluctance where I expected it. We looked at Higbie and Woodard dossiers too, and thought they were good, but all seemed to agree that J.B. stood somewhat higher. Our hesitations, which took some time, but were of course futile, were about the chances of getting deaconal approval. Fannie was sure that if anything is to be done it must be done already, so Barry wrote a letter, I printed it out on LetterHead (Barry had never seen that done before), Barry signed it, and Fannie took it off to be presented at the Dean's meetings tomorrow. So if all goes well we might be sending a letter to John.

I found the envelope full of vitae with Xeonphon in them, that I was sure I had given to Norma to send off. So it was a very good thing you called to get the job on the road.

I am still sort of chewing the cud on the other things you mentioned in your last week's calls, trying to figure out what I think about some of them. On the other hand, I count one as a major item, and a VERY GOOD THING.

Yours,



14 January 1986