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## Stan to Jim, 12 March 1959

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Chapel Hill, North Carolina

March 12, 1959

Dear Jim:

I suppose the only way to find time to write letters is to take time; therefore, I shall try to answer your letter while its contents are still fresh in my mind. We were glad to hear that you are back on your feet, but had no idea that you had been ill. I hope this siege was not as bad as that of last year. I have not the slightest idea of what "mononucleosis" is, but whatever it is, I'm glad you didn't have it.

Things are humming along here in Chapel Hill as usual. Dr. Green goes around like a house on fire—I have never seen such energy. Most of the faculty—ambitious souls that they are—are engaged in writing books or articles. When I came to realize that 1200 copies is considered an excellent sale for scholarly works, the thought occurred to me that much is done for posterity. I have classes under Drs. Godfrey, Klingberg, and Lefler this semester. Godfrey is one of the better lecturers, but none of these men can hold a candle, in my opinion, to Uncle Fletcher as a teacher. The only thing that makes this school better than some others is the library, and it is not the best run library in this country. If you see Annie Mills, tell her that the documents librarian at Carolina is an idiot.

The fair haired boy among those who try to make a case for modern man <sup>around here</sup> is Richard Hofstadter. Klingberg and Satterson seem to think that the sun rises and sets over his head, but he leaves me a little cold. His writings, like <sup>those of</sup> Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Eric Goldman, are very sophisticated, but I wonder how much real history is contained between the covers of their books. I

have not read Schlesinger's second volume, <sup>on Roosevelt, but</sup> and understand it is supposed to be a "classic" (H.S. Commager). I hope it is better than his Age of Jackson.

One big hurdle is out of the way now for I got word today that I had passed the French Reading Exam. It was not so difficult as the German Exam. We had to translate an article on Chinese economics, and the test was given by the French Department, and was <sup>therefore</sup> no pushover; but French translates easier than German.

I hope Bill doesn't do something foolish. It would make much more sense to finish college before entering the service. Of course, if things continue as they are now in Berlin and Iraq, perhaps the choice will be taken out of his hands completely. You may even have to don your Red Cross uniform once again. I think I shall try to find a vacated lead mine in the wilds of the Colorado mountains with the forlorn hope that the world leaders will regain some semblance of sanity. Any one who can talk with composure about the dropping of a hydrogen bomb needs his head examined.

I was glad to hear that your teaching job at Harvard this summer has been confirmed. It was only tentative the last time we heard from you. If you come through North Carolina, come by and see us.

Give my regards to the family and tell Bill to relax. Write whenever you can.

Sincerely,  
Stan