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KNOX COLLEGE

GALESBURG ILLINOIS



Department of Political Science
and International Relations

5 December 1963

Dear Jim:

I expect that the amount of fan mail (both laudatory and otherwise) you have received since your speech to the Southern Historical Association has been pretty considerable - notwithstanding, I wanted to let you know that an old Water Valley colleague thought that it was pretty fine. As a matter of fact, I was able to achieve considerable local distinction as a former associate of yours (without specifying the exact nature of the association).

Actually, you have a good many admirers on this campus - which is the second reason for my writing this letter. We were wondering if there was any chance of your coming for a visit some time next semester (Nolan wrote some time ago that you would then be on leave but he didn't say where you would be). Ideally, this would be for a couple of days, which would allow a public appearance of some kind, together with several informal sessions with faculty and students. The lecture committee has been a little coy in indicating what they think they could afford to put out for this, although I suspect they have been thinking in terms of \$250 or so, plus expenses (which would include all the bourbon you can hold and possibly a complaisant coed or two). If this seems somewhat modest, as well it may (assuming that you are in a position to consider coming at all), don't hesitate to let me know and I will see if the ante can be raised. Also, if there is a chance, please let us know what the possible dates might be. I really hope you can make it, because it's been too damn long since we have had a confabulation. (I was disappointed to find you out in Oregon, under Carbone's dissolute influence, when we were down for a visit a year ago last summer - I guess Giorgio is really living it up in Italy, what?)

Am still finding it difficult to come out of the depression resulting from Kennedy's death - about as sad a thing as could possibly be. Johnson's performance thus far does afford some slight consolation.

Nolan has been filling me in from time to time on developments at Ole Miss. I'm sure it's been a damn rough time - much more so than anyone who hasn't been through it could realize. I saw a fine letter of Billy's in the Times a year or so back - is he still in the Army? I expect this must be Betty's senior year at Wellesley - and Gail must be quite a gal by now. Hard (and depressing) to realize how time goes by.

I hope you can make it up here, Jim - we'd certainly love to see you. For now, our very best to you and the family.

As ever,