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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

December 5, 1963

Dear Jim,

The security precautions in my last letter were to ensure careful handling, both here and there. We had Dan Boorstin give a lecture in our Hammond Series, and two of my letters to him were lost somewhere along the line. The President was interested in this matter, so I was not going to run a similar risk with you.

I haven't yet checked our February calendar but will do so this week. Since you didn't react unfavorably to my suggestion that you make one of your talks on Faulkner, I hope I can assume that you aren't unwilling. So I'll go ahead and do some coordinating with the English Department. Incidentally, one of our English men, William C. Pratt (what kind of a fall would he take?) is a nephew of either Gathright or Reed.

I'm thinking in terms of about four appearances in the two days--one an evening lecture, one in the afternoon (4:00 p. m. is a favorite hour here), and a seminar type of thing on each of the two days. After you've said the same things four times, you might even convince me! This is assuming, and I think I am safe, that I can get a minimum of \$400. We might even be able to work in a third seminar if you fear the possibility of being bored.

Two fields are handy to Oxford--or, rather, unhandy. Dayton airport is about 50 miles from Oxford. The Greater Cincinnati Airport is a bit closer but farther away in time. We can, the elements willing, pick up visitors at either. The Richmond airport handles the smaller planes. You might find that going to Dayton via Chicago would be as fast as Memphis to Cincinnati, although the latter should be the fastest--or er. Several years ago Katherine and I flew from Cincinnati to Memphis via St. Louis.

The assassination certainly hit our students a terrific blow. I doubt if any of us really had appreciated how thoroughly Kennedy had become president. When I announced in class that Kennedy was dead, several students left the class crying openly. Our memorial service in Withrow Court (the gym) was so packed that there was not even standing room a half hour before the service began.

Will get busy on the schedule and report on possible dates. And I'm mighty pleased that you will come.

Sincerely,

Harris