

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408



DATE: December 22, 1969

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: NNA

SUBJECT: Oral History of NARS

TO: Archivist of the United States - N

Several weeks ago you asked me to suggest names for an oral history of our early years. I assumed that this matter was hardly "front burner," but the season reminds me that several retirees have reached their December.

Angel
Bahmer
Baudu
Bauer
Beach
Nelson Blake
Grover
Campbell
Drewry
Eberhart
Franklin
~~Clio Getts~~ *deceased*

Betty and Phil Hamer
Collas Harris
Holmes
Hufford
Irvine
Kahn
Kennedy
Dan Lacey
Leavitt
Levinson
Thad Page
Stewart Portner
Marcus Price

Fred Shipman
Bufford Rowland
Robertson
John Russell
~~Schellenberg~~ *deceased*
Stiles
Trever
John Wells
Willoughby
Kimberly
Bess Glenn?
Gersack?

*Cappou
Beasler
Bradley
Brooks
Powner*

MH 69
MEYER H. FISHBEIN
Director
Records Appraisal Division

**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ROUTING SLIP**

| TO | CO | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 | |
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REMARKS

As discussed in our meeting, please add additional names to the attached list as appropriate.

*peroy
sent to above
5/28/70*

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| James B. Rhoads | | | | | | TELEPHONE | | | DATE | | |
| | | | | | | | | | 5-27-70 | | |

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
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| 1. | R. Jacobs | | | | | 104 | | | | | |
| 2. | Dr. Rhoads | | | | | 111 | | | | | |
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REMARKS

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| L. Hackman | | | | | | 302 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | TELEPHONE | | DATE | | | |
| | | | | | | | | June 5, 1970 | | | |

Memorandum

TO : NL & N

Date: June 5, 1970

FROM : Larry J. Hackman

In reply refer to: NLKO

SUBJECT: NARS Oral History

I am pleased that you have decided to move ahead with an oral history of NARS. We will, of course, share whatever expertise we have with those in charge of the project and I will draw up a formal training program if you wish. I do have a few comments on the meeting in your office and a few other subjects.

1. We shouldn't look at the oral history program primarily in terms of the fiftieth anniversary history, or approach interviewees with the anniversary history as a justification. We should view the program and describe it as seeking objective, detailed, and frank accounts of the development of the institution. None, or very few, of the "old timers" will restrict their interviews beyond 1984, in any case. But should they be so inclined, we might then discuss with them the potential value of their transcript to the writing of the anniversary history.

By downplaying the anniversary history, we will obtain better interviews.

2. As you know, I do have reservations about using "insiders" as interviews. I am especially concerned with the reaction to this when we announce the project in Prologue and other journals. I hope that, if we do go forward with Carl Trevor and Sherrod East, we will announce that they are former archivists who are working on this as "experts" and not as staff members.

When the project is made public, I hope we will refer to it as a demonstration of NARS confidence in the oral history technique.



3. It is very easy to underestimate the money, time, space, and skills required for the transcribing, proofreading, indexing, negotiation of legal agreements, etc., involved in oral history. I hope that this processing work load will not be given to an overburdened JFK Library staff which already has an embarrassing backlog.

We estimate the cost of processing each hour of interviewing is approximately \$90. This excludes the salary of interviewers--which is the most costly item--and the cost of equipment.

One full-time interviewer requires one full-time person for transcribing and final typing and one 1/3 - 1/2 time proofreader.

4. If it is decided to approach a foundation for funding, we should not refer to the project as "experimental" or as a "test case." NARS has been involved in oral history for a number of years and has on hand hundreds of transcripts. I would think any foundation official would ask, "Haven't you evaluated your own materials and techniques?" "If you are convinced of its value, why come to us for funds?"

Personally - I don't feel we've done an adequate job of evaluating our own product. I recommend that some sort of evaluation panel be set up to take a closer look at some of the Kennedy, Truman, and Eisenhower transcripts. I would hope that such a group would include yourself or Mr. Angel, Dr. Reed, and several others; outsiders could be added if you wish. This need not be time consuming. A small selection of transcripts could be circulated and a brief final report written by one of the panel members.

5. I also hope that you will consider recommending the creation of a NARS oral history office to begin, at least on an experimental level, to conduct administrative oral histories in other areas of government. As Dr. Holmes reminded us, NARS has unique expertise and resources in this subject area. Because we are also one of the few places in government with oral history experience, NARS is the logical

agency to move into this. Many agencies, especially those created in the New Deal years and just before and after, are in the same situation we are in now - their oldtimers are leaving and dying.

I feel strongly that these agencies should not be left to conduct their own oral history programs or, more likely, to ignore the possibility of any such program.

I also believe that this kind of program will be more fruitful, and more attractive to GSA, BOB, and on the Hill, than the previously discussed Congressional interviewing program.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE

National Archives and Records Service

Washington, D.C. 20408



JLB
WCA
mk

DATE: June 8, 1970

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: NL

SUBJECT: NARS Oral History

TO: N

As a fellow participant in the meeting in your office on an Oral History of the National Archives, I endorse everything Larry Hackman has to say here. My particular concern is to see that whatever next step we take in the field of Oral History should be a positive and palpable advance. Undertaking our own introspection, using former employees who were participants as interviewers, is probably neither ambitious nor objective enough from the point of view of an outside scholar looking to NARS for leadership in this field. Perhaps we should undertake this project without fanfare and consider larger possibilities suggested in Larry Hackman's memorandum.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Jacobs".

RICHARD A. JACOBS

Enclosure

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REMARKS

How about merge Wegus.

She, too

cc

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REMARKS

Will we be having another meeting on this?

WKA 5-9-70

Perhaps you Walt & I should talk further - but we don't need another meeting of the full group.

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICES

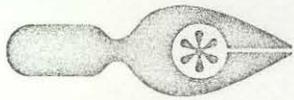
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INTRASERVICE MEMORANDUM AND ENDORSEMENT

SUBJECT OR TRANSACTION
Oral history program

| FROM | TO | DATE AND MESSAGE |
|------|----|---|
| NP | N | 6-15-70. This is in response to your request for additional names for an oral history program in addition to those on Fishbein's list, which you sent around on 5-27-70. |
| | | I would suggest adding: |
| | | 1. Vernon Tate, head of our first photographic laboratory and important in the early history of the laboratory and still pictures unit. |
| | | 2. Frank McAlister, one of the early deputy examiner group. Third man to be appointed to head a custodial division--had charge especially of Justice Department records. Lives in Arkansas. Leavitt, Shipman still keeps in touch with him. |
| | | 3. Mike Simmons--here from 1935 and an assistant to the deputy examiners at the beginning. |
| | | 4. Josephine Cobb--here from 1935. One of the original members of the cataloging Division under John Russell and of course prominent since. |
| | | 5. Fay Geeslin--Secretary to three Archivists, beginning with Dr. Buck. |
| | | 6. William McCain, Robert East, and Bill Van Schreevan--all members of the original Classification Division under Roscoe Hill and of some importance in the profession since. |
| | | <i>Oliver W. Holmes (gk.)</i> OLIVER W. HOLMES Executive Director, NHPC |
| | | <i>Noted.</i> |
| | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| | | <i>[Signature]</i> |

(Over)



What's Going On

Louis C. Jones of Cooperstown, New York, has been appointed by Governor Rockefeller to serve as chairman of the New York State Historic Trust. Jones will succeed Conrad L. Wirth of Yonkers as chairman, and Wirth will succeed Jones as vice-chairman of the Trust. The Trust acquires property in the name of the state for historic purposes and operates and maintains historic sites. Jones is director of the New York State Historical Association and the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown.

Leslie H. Fishel, Jr., member of the AASLH Executive Council, is one of nine persons recently appointed to the National Council on the Humanities. President Richard Nixon announced the appointment of the new members who will serve for six-year terms on the 26-member advisory body to the National Endowment for the Humanities. Fishel is president of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio.

The Nassau County Historical Museum announces a move to new offices. Its new address is Nassau County Historical Museum Research Center, Muttontown Road, Syosset, New York 11791. Telephone: 516-364-1050.

The Oral History Association is publishing a Compendium of Oral History Programs in the United States. Institutions having an oral history program may obtain a questionnaire by writing to Dr. Gary L. Shumway, Department of History, California State College, Fullerton, Fullerton, California 92631.

A collection of paintings, prints, documents, books and artifacts relating to Louisiana history recently opened at Vieux Carre in New Orleans. A building dating from 1792 has been renovated to accommodate the galleries. L. Kemper Williams gathered the collection over many years for the benefit of historians, researchers and others interested in early Louisiana history. Boyd Cruise, New Orleans painter, has been named curator, and Mrs. Edith Long, editor and writer, has been named archivist for the new facility.

Wayne C. Grover, third archivist of the United States, died of cancer at his home in Silver Spring, Maryland, June 8. Grover retired

in 1965 from the position he had held since his appointment by President Truman in 1948. As archivist, he was head of the National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration. He was in charge of the National Archives, Presidential Libraries and Federal Records Centers and was also chairman of the National Historical Publications Commission and of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register. Following his retirement, Grover served as a consultant to the Lyndon B. Johnson Library.

Robert Alderman Murdock has been appointed executive director of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Recently enrolled in the PhD program in history at the University of Virginia, Murdock assumed his new duties July 1.

Bicentennial Study (cont.)

Harbison Award from the Danforth Foundation.

He has taught history courses at Arkansas State Teachers College, Vanderbilt University, University of Georgia, University of Nebraska, Fairleigh Dickinson, Ohio State University, and Wittenberg. He has served as chairman of the history department at Wittenberg for nine years. In addition, Hartje has published one book, *Earl Van Dorn* (Vanderbilt Press, 1967) and numerous articles in newspapers and scholarly journals.

Hartje is currently participating in a summer seminar in Africa sponsored by the Regional Council for International Education. Hartje will use this opportunity to study the social and economic development of East Africa as a new base for a comparison and an understanding of American culture. According to Hartje: "In preparing to look more intimately at American History in preparation for observing the 200th anniversary of the beginning of this nation, we might well look at what has happened recently in another developing nation."

He will return from Africa to begin work on the bicentennial study August 1.

Copy on this to N.L. (55)

[Handwritten initials]

Handwritten initials and date: WSP 7/26

WASHINGTON BOOK NOTES

Tale of an Environment Pioneer

By HERMAN SCHADEN

Star Staff Writer

The state of the environment, so deplored today, might have been immeasurably worse but for the vision and spunk of one pioneer, Gifford Pinchot.

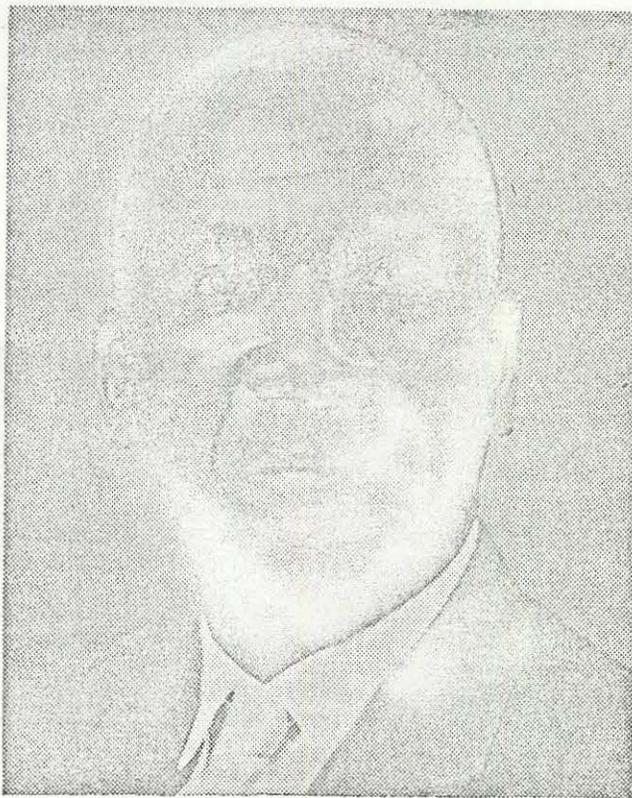
Although others preceded him in concern about abuse of the seemingly inexhaustible 850 million acres of forestland, it was this aristocratic-looking son of a wealthy manufacturer who pounded home to the American people the need for preserving their natural bounty.

Now his achievements have been honored in a distinguished volume, "Gifford Pinchot, Private and Public Forester" (University of Illinois Press; \$6.95) by Dr. Harold T. Pinkett, deputy director of the Records Appraisal Division, National Archives and Records Service.

A former lecturer in history at American University, Howard University, the University of Maryland and other schools, Pinkett became interested in Pinchot when he was chief of the National Archives' Agriculture Records Branch. This in turn introduced him to the Forest Service Records on which he now is an authority.

Pinkett has produced one of those obvious labors of love which enjoys the ambivalence of a scholarly study and a thoroughly readable biography. The profundity of his research is everywhere apparent, but he never allows it to interfere with clear, incisive writing.

We are fortunate that Pinchot had a far-sighted father who asked him as he was entering Yale in 1885, "How would you like to be a forester?" The son went on to become the first successful forest manager in America, supplanting wasteful, ruthless timber cutting with systematic replanting. A living monument to his enterprise is the old George W. Vanderbilt estate, near Asheville, N.C., which Pinchot began managing in 1892.



DR. HAROLD T. PINKETT

With the singlemindedness of one possessed (some pictured him as Czar Pinchot and his Cossack Rangers) this strong-willed conservationist became the first Chief Forester and for years thereafter waged a running battle with the press, the Congress and finally, President Taft. Meanwhile, his missionary zeal probably converted more people than Smokey the Bear, in the interest of protecting the great forests.

Pinkett's book richly deserved its selection as book-of-the-year by the Agricultural History Society, and equally deserves a wide public readership.

* * * *

From the desk of

PHILIP C. BROOKS

11/15/71

To: N

From PCB

Subj.: News note for journals - Oral History Project

If there is to be a news note on the Oral History Project I am to conduct, it might read as follows:

The National Archives and Records Service of the General Services Administration has undertaken an oral history project relating to the National Archives, 1935-1949, when it was an independent agency. It will involve persons who were members of the staff at that time, as well as some who observed it from outside. The project will be undertaken by Philip C. Brooks, who has recently retired as Director of the Harry S. Truman Library. In addition to having been a member of the staff in that period, he has considerable experience in oral history. He conducted a series of interviews in nine countries of Europe in 1964 relating to the genesis of the Marshall Plan, and had general supervision of the Oral History Project of the Truman Library from its inception in 1961 until his retirement. He is an active member of the Oral History Association.

Note: I do not think that too much stress should be put on my own knowledge of the period, as the purpose of this project is to elicit comments from the interviewees. I suggest "general supervision" of the project at the Truman Library, because Fuchs has been Chief of the project, under my supervision.

If a note is sent out I hope that it will go to the Oral History Association Newsletter among others.

PCB
[Handwritten signature]

Philip C. Brooks
2500 N. Van Dorn St., Apt. 408
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

November 15, 1971

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Bert:

It is a pleasure to accept the contract for the Oral History Project on the early history of the National Archives, which I have signed and return herewith. This should be an enjoyable venture, and I trust that it can be done in such a way as to be useful.

The contract calls for agreement between you and myself as to the persons to be interviewed. We have already discussed this to some extent, and I touched on it in my memorandum to you of October 27. It should not be difficult to make a more precise selection, depending somewhat on the availability of interviewees. I would like to call you about this next week.

You may or may not want to have a note in the professional journals about this. Some people outside would be interested in the fact that the National Archives is getting into this business, and occasionally I am asked what am I going to do now. I have no strong feelings about whether there should be one or not, but have written some notes for the aid of a person drafting a note if you do want to have one.

Thanks for your cooperation and Walt's in getting this set up.

Cordially,

Phil
Philip C. Brooks

8-20

June 20, 1972

Oral Historian - NLT

Cassette tapes

See

Dr. Philip C. Brooks

On the above date I phoned Mr. Victor Nelson, General Manager of Fidelity Sound Company, 1200 18th Street, N.W., Wash, D.C. to discuss with him the question of the long-term storage capabilities of cassette tapes.

Mr. Nelson said that to the best of his knowledge there have been no serious studies made of the problem that dealt exclusively with cassettes. He stated further that such a study might not be necessary as the rules that were applicable to tape on open reels were also applicable to tape of a similar thickness on cassettes. The methods of handling a tape of 1-mil thickness on open reels would also apply to tape of 1-mil thickness on cassettes, and the retention of the fidelity of the information recorded on the tape could also reasonably be expected to be the same. On this latter point he would offer no time limit but stated that with proper care, proper storage and a regular program of re-winding the tape would last indefinitely.

In discussing the best tape to use for storage purposes Mr. Nelson recommended a tape of 1½-mil thickness. It was his belief that most cassettes available for use were equipped with tape that ranged from ½-mil to 1-mil in thickness. This may or may not be the case. As I do not use cassettes in my interviews there are many questions concerning them that I am unable to answer. Mr. Nelson did state that "print through" would be less of a problem on cassettes than on open reel tape as the recording track was somewhat smaller or narrower.

Mr. Nelson also expressed the view that one advantage to re-recording the information on open reels from cassettes would be to reduce the number of items that had to be handled or stored.

JERRY N. HESS

cc: Dr. James E. O'Neill, Deputy Archivist ✓
Dr. Daniel J. Reed, NL

From the desk of . . .

PHILIP C. BROOKS

March 13, 1973

Dr. Rhoads
Mr. Robertson

This is an attempt to get at a plan for the future of the Oral History project. The original contract was for a year, but because of two deferments the four quarters will not be up until March 31, 1973. I should not plan to interview people after June 30 (we are leaving in September), but should be able to get in a few important ones before then; and there will be some follow-up work after that. I hope that somebody else can be found to take up the project then.

All the potential interviewees are listed for your review (there may be others). The ones I would suggest from whom we would try to get five to do in the coming quarter (assuming that it would not be feasible to get Rhoads or Robertson, and subject to your recommendations and approval) would be:

Betty Hamer Kegan
Vernon Tate (I could go over there some day)
Herman Kahn (I think I could manage a trip up there
maybe including Boston if Lyman B. is available)
Sherrod East
Phil Bauer and/or Lewie Darter
Herman Friis
Arthur Kimberly

Have already arranged to do one with Lewinson, and there will be continuations with Bahmer, Shipman, Angel and who knows? - I might get Oliver.

This has all turned out to be longer than I anticipated, and I'm now sorry I didn't do it in time to get it to you in advance of our conversation.

PCB
Phil

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NARS - ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Status as of March 13, 1973

| <u>Interviews Done</u> | <u>Hours</u> | |
|------------------------|--------------|--|
| Thad Page # | 3½ | Completed |
| Collas Harris # | 3½ | Completed |
| H.G.Jones | 1 | Completed |
| J.Larson | 1 | He has not returned transcript sent him in July,1972 |
| W.N.Franklin # | 4 | Draft in process |
| M.W.Price | 1 | Draft in process |
| G.Elsey | 3/4 | He has draft; out of town |
| R.H.Bahmer # | 4 | Draft in process ; interviews not complete |
| H.E.Angel # | 3½ | Draft in process ; interviews not complete |
| K.L.Trever # | 2 | Draft in process; interviews not complete |
| | <u>24½</u> | |

Interviews to be done in March

| | | |
|---------------|------------|--|
| G.A.Lee | 22 | Should take only one interview |
| F.W.Shipman # | 2 | Beginning of what may be two or three interviews |
| K.L.Trever # | <u>2</u> | May or may not finish series |
| | <u>30½</u> | |

Interviewees agreed upon but not yet done

| | |
|--------------|---|
| P.Lewinson | After his wife recovers; probably in May |
| ✓ O.W.Holmes | It is still problematical whether or not I'll get him, although we've discussed it many times |

So far the project has fully realized my hopes, except for my own difficulties in keeping up to the original schedule. The transcripts are necessarily varied in value. They cannot be complete as to detail, but I do think that they will give some understanding of the broad organizational development, the problems that were met and the understanding of objectives; the kind of people that were involved and the kind of place it was to work in - this with more emphasis, clarity, and color than the voluminous records and private papers available, though they would have their place in any project to write the history of NARS more formally. These transcripts should be useful to any future historian of NARS; to those doing training work; to current administrators; and to those concerned with the records problem of the Federal Government.

March 13, 1973

Potential Interviewees - (List to be discussed with Dr. Rhoads and Mr. Robertson)

The selection of interviewees is difficult and somewhat delicate. Several factors must be considered in any case - potential actual knowledge and ability as observers; articulateness and clarity of thought (would they really be good interviewees?); the need for representing various points of view, e.g. the "front offices" and the records divisions, the "top staff" and down the line, the "technical" types of records, etc.; and the convenience of getting in touch with the people. In my case convenience and transportation problems are more difficult than they might be with other interviewers. The Archivist and I tentatively agreed some time ago that I would concentrate on people that were already retired, although that was not meant to be completely exclusive. I think it would be desirable to include in this project at some time one or two or more people who would talk at users of the Archives, over a long period of time, not as one-time staff members.

I would like to select seven or eight persons, with all these factors in mind, from whom I could get not more than five to interview in the quarter April-June, 1973 (in addition to whatever carryovers there are with Bahmer, Angel, Shipman, et.al.). I should not plan to interview after June 30, 1973 - but there is bound to be some work in the following quarter editing transcripts, sending them to interviewees for editing, and so on. And what I want to put down myself may not be completed by June 30, though I would like to carry over as little as possible after that date.

The selection of these few might well be made, I think, from the "more important" list below, though I would want to be guided by the preferences of the Archives officials.

The total list given here includes those that I suggested in my letter to Dr. Rhoads of Oct. 27, 1971, and those suggested to me by other people. Some I think are really not worth considering. All are listed alphabetically.

More Important

- ✓ Everett Alldredge - Was here fairly early, but he'd be best on recent years, about which I would not be a very competent interviewer.
- ✓ G. Philip Bauer - Would be good for several reasons; should get him or Betty Hamer Kegan or Lewie Darter to cover the SFA.
- Lewis G. Darter - Same remarks.
- Elizabeth Drewry - Good for many things, going back to the earliest Division of Reference; transportation problem (to Chambersburg, Pa.).
- Sherrod East - Would be good; does he have the time now?
- Herman R. Friis - Good if we're going to try to cover the technical records; probably readily available; still working.
- ✓ Herman Kahn - Would be excellent, and is willing; I might manage a trip up there in May or June.
- Arthur E. Kimberly - Again good if we want to cover technical divisions; haven't seen him but understand he's in this area.
- ✓ Elizabeth Hamer Kegan - Good for many things, including the Survey of Federal Archives and relationships with LC; Haven't talked to her and am not sure she'd have time, but I hope so.

More important, contin.

James B. Rhoads - You and Robertson would be among the most valuable on all counts; I don't know whether it would be realistic or not to plan to interview either of you soon. I'd certainly like to.

✓ Walter Robertson, Jr. - Same remarks.

Vernon D. Tate - Very good for technical records - still, pictures motion pictures to some extent, and microfilm of textual records; also a transportation problem.

Almon R. Wright - Available and willing. Would be good for early organizational problems, records divisions, and probably as a user of the Archives later (in Historical Office of State Dept.)

Other ((S) indicates not yet retired) (I know the whereabouts of some of these, but not all.)

Harry Baudu

John Bradley - Said to be in Colorado

Elizabeth Bethel - Suburban Washington

E. Page Bledsoe -

(S) E. G. Campbell - I think he would be good, but he says he wouldn't.

M. P. Claussen - Alexandria

Josephine Cobb - Maine

Gerald Davis -

D. Duniway - Oregon

Marcy Dickson -

Robert East -

D. Eberhart -

E. Flatequal -

K. Fechet -

Faye Geeslin - Arlington (?)

Leo Gerald -

(S) Dorothy Gersack -

James Gibson -

Carl Gregory - California (?)

Bess Glenn -

Mary Healy -

✓ (S) Dallas Irvine - Some question as to whether he would be willing, and question in my mind as to whether he would be worthwhile.

Allen Jones - Florida (?)

Mona Oxrieder Klepinger - Washington suburb

Dan Lacy - New York

Harold Larson -

Arthur Leavitt - Arlington

F. McAllister - Arkansas

W. McCain - Mississippi

A. Minogue -

F. Nivert - Florida (?)

(S) Katherine Murphy -

Potential interviewees, contin.

- Olga P. Irvine - Dr. Posner thought she would be good for early translations of European publications, and influence on Dr. Buck
- Wilbur Poole - Might talk about the attitudes of the staff down the line
- Stuart Portner -
- Laura Reeves -
- Allen Ross -
- John R. Russell - I would like to go to Switzerland and interview him and Ernst Posner
- Vernon Setser -
- (S) Mike Simmons -
- (S) Jane Smith -
- Marie C. Stark -
- Marjorie Wagus - Florida
- John L. Wells -
- Rob Willoughby - Washington suburb
- Frank Wilson - Alexandria
- Arthur Young - York, Pennsylvania

Outside the National Archives

- ✓ Julian Boyd - Princeton
- James McG. Burns -
- Lyman Butterfield - Cambridge. Would be good, though his health might prevent.
- ✓ Lester Cappon - Chicago
- Thomas D. Clark - Indiana
- Luther Evans - New York (?)
- Frank Freidel - Cambridge
- A. MacLeish -
- David C. Mearns - Washington suburb. Wordy, but ought to be good
- ✓ Forrest Pogue - I'm not sure how early he knew the Archives, but he is accessible, and would be good.
- ✓ Ernst Posner - I'm afraid I've missed him.
- A. Schlesinger, Jr. - New York

2500 N. Van D... St., Apt. 408
Alexandria, Virginia 22302
June 23, 1973

8-20 JBR
JER
Jen.

Mr. Walter Robertson, Jr.
Executive Director
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

Received NA-N

JUN 27 1973

Dear Walt:

In submitting to you the statement for the forthcoming payment on my oral history project, I should also submit a memorandum of the work done, and the plans for carrying out the rest of the project recently discussed with Dr. Rhoads and Dr. Campbell. I am sending each of them a copy of this memorandum.

Up to the beginning of the present contract, I had interviewed twelve people (though it looks as if I would not the draft transcript back from Jess Larson so that only eleven will be completed). The present contract called for interviewing five more in the three months ending June 30, 1973. I have interviewed five: Philip Bauer, Herman Kahn, Arthur Kimberly, Paul Lewinson, and Vernon Tate; have an interview scheduled with Oliver Holmes, and shall send lists of questions or topics to Elizabeth Hamer Kegan and Ernst Posner in the hope that we can get comments in one way or another. It is also my plan, since a number of people have urged me to do so, to do a "self-interview."

Before we move from this area in August I plan to submit final versions of several interviews; the contract requires that they all be in by March 31, 1974. The work of editing and typing goes very slowly, and I do not now know how many can be completed by August.

On June 19, 1973 I conferred with Dr. Campbell, since he will be the recipient of the final transcripts, concerning several matters some of which are to be decided by NARS itself after my work is done. I shall prepare the transcripts for each interviewee in a separate folder, accompanied by a title page which will list the major positions held by the person, a photograph (I already have these from James Moore), and a copy of the legal agreement. It is possible that one or two transcripts ought to be closed - if so I shall try to get the interviewee to so stipulate, or shall call the matter to Dr. Campbell's attention for the action of the Archivist. Dr. Campbell and I both prefer to have only segments of the tapes preserved, rather than the whole tapes - about three to five minutes of each so the rare researcher who wishes can hear how the person spoke. Both of us feel (though this is a matter for NARS to decide, not me) that a name index (to be made in the Archives eventually) would help but that that is all that is necessary. A decision will have to be made by NARS eventually whether the transcripts are to be made available to users outside of Washington, by sending microfilm to a regional Archives, or film or a tape (there will be an original and a duplicate in each case) sent to a regional Archives or a Presidential Library, or sent out on Interlibrary Loan. I mention this because one prospective user has already asked me about this - he is so located

that any one of these methods would serve his purpose, but there might be others not so located.

I would hope that this work could be continued, because I feel more than when I began that it is worth while, because there are a number of possible interviewees whom I did not interview, stressing the period up to 1950 (you will remember that the last few were selected from a possible 75 - though not all of them would be worth doing), and because the later period should be more intensively covered. NARS may want to wait until my work is completed and can be judged to do this.

Sincerely,


Philip C. Brooks

PCB:pcb

2500 N. Van Dorn ^{U.S.}, Apt. 408
Alexandria, Virginia 22302
June 23, 1973

Mr. Walter Robertson, Jr.
Executive Director
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

Vendor Speed Number 131476

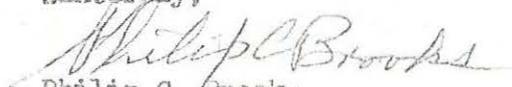
Dear Walt:

In accordance with the provisions of section 4 of Contract No. 73-21, dated March 29, 1973, it is requested that necessary action be initiated to forward the first payment on the contract, due June 30, 1973, which with expenses is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Basic contract amount - | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Travel expenses - New York, | |
| Airline fare | 53.28 |
| Taxis and limousines | 15.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 68.78 |
| Batteries for tape recorder | 4.13 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ 2,072.91 |

I shall appreciate your taking care of this matter.

Sincerely,


Philip C. Brooks

8-20

September 26, 1974

Dr. Philip C. Brooks
10027 Pleasant Valley Road
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Dear Dr. Brooks:

We received the transcripts for Posner and Cappon along with the legal agreements for Posner, Cappon, and Bahmer on September 16. However, we have not, as yet, received the Bahmer transcript. Was it sent at the same time as the others? I thought that since it has been a while since we received the others perhaps I should write you about it in case it may have been lost in the mail.

Hope everything is going well with you and Mrs. Brooks.

Sincerely,

Fran

(MRS.) FRANCES E. BROOKS
Office of the Archivist

From the desk of . . .

PHILIP C. BROOKS

8-20
Dec. 5, 1974

Mrs. Frances Brooks
Office of the Archivist
NARS

Dear Fran:

In my continuing puzzlement as to how best to deal with the Postal Service, I am sending two final transcripts - Holmes and Bauer - but one copy of each in one of two envelopes.

There are also included the legal agreements for Bert to sign, two in the binders with the transcripts, and one each separate, to be returned to me and by me to the interviewees. I am also taking the liberty of enclosing a self-addressed post card with the request that you send it back to me to let me know when you receive these things.

Thanks and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,



P.S. I should have said that we were sorry to hear of Dr. O'Neill's illness, and hope he is better now.

The post card is not quite new - a four center. But it wasn't so long ago that we used four-centers.

*Legal agreements returned
12-9-74*

Dec. 5, 1979

Mrs. Frances Brooks
Office of the Archivist
NARS

*(You'd think I'd
know how to
write this
word by
now)*

Dear Fran:

In my continuing puzzlement as to how best to deal with the Postal Service, I am sending two final transcripts - Holmes and Bauer - but one copy of each in one of two envelopes.

There are also included the legal agreements for Bert to sign, two in the binders with the transcripts, and one each separate, to be returned to me and by me to the interviewees. I am also taking the liberty of enclosing a self-addressed post card with the request that you send it back to me so let me know when you receive these things.

Thanks and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

FRB

P.S. I should have said that we were sorry to hear of Dr. O'Neill's illness, and hope he is better now.

The post card is not quite new - a four center. But it wasn't so long ago that we used four-centers.

And I'm afraid I neglected to put on the additional stamps before I sealed the other envelope -

PHILIP C. BROOKS
10027 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD
SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351

December 5, 1974

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

Received NA-N

DEC 9 1974

Dear Bert:

The final drafts of the Holmes and Bauer interviews are now being sent to you, with accompanying biographical outlines, photos, and legal agreements, for the usual deposit in the National Archives.

I am particularly glad to turn in these two, as I think they are both good. I wish I could have kept Oliver going twice as long as I did, because he is not only full of information but also comments very thoughtfully. I wish very much that he had felt like talking about the NHPC, but he didn't. That is the biggest gap in the project.

Phil Bauer was good too, and quite candid as you might expect - also brief, as you'd expect. Every one has something not covered by anybody else, and he certainly did.

I'll be grateful if you'll sign the legal agreements. Fran will know how to handle them. One of each is in the binder so that they can be sent right on up to Ned (unless you have time to glance over them, as I'd hope). One of each is separate, to be returned to me and by me to the interviewee with a letter of thanks.

Cordially,

Phil

Best wishes of the season to you and all your office staff.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

8-207



National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408

OK

Received NA-N
MAR 18 1975

DATE: March 18, 1975

REPLY TO: NL (Reed)
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: News Week magazine's account of Reedy's oral history interview

N

You asked recently did the Johnson Library inform us of the prospect of News Week publishing an article on Reedy's oral history interview? At the time I was able to say only that we did not know of it before it appeared in print. I spoke thereafter with Harry Middleton about this and he insisted that he did not know it was appearing until he saw it. He did allow that many months previous a Noma Milligan of News Week had called him about Reedy's oral history interview and asked to see a copy of it. Since it was available for research Harry sent her a copy with no information concerning what she was to do with it. He then forgot about it. Obviously, it was used to write the article that appeared later. Thus far Harry's account of the event.


DANIEL J. REED

Received NA-N

JUN 23 1975

PHILIP C. BROOKS
10027 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD
SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351

JP

June 19, 1975

Dr. James B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Bert:

Naturally I was distressed at the death of Herman Kahn, one of the people whom I knew best and worked most closely with. And I appreciated having calls about it from several people, including Dan, and the first one from the Truman Library. Probably I will say more about him if and when I get to doing the "self-interview" I have threatened for the oral history project.

I should now, however, tell you about a problem we have in regard to my interview of Herman, certainly one of the very few best. Last year he said that he wanted to close the whole thing for ten years. I asked him, when I sent him the final version, to reconsider that, as I really think that much of it doesn't need to be closed at all, and would be quite useful if it were available in the meantime.

Herman sent me a note late in April acknowledging receipt of the final version and that he would review it as soon as he could get to it. He repeated that in a nice letter he dictated to me in the hospital just two days before his death. It did not reach me until two days afterward.

I suppose that the only thing we can now do will be to wait a while to give the people in New Haven a chance to do something about his pending affairs. If I hear anything from them I will let you know.

Cordially,

Phil

8-20

June 30, 1975

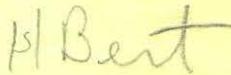
Dr. Philip C. Brooks
10027 Pleasant Valley Road
Sun City, Arizona 85351

Dear Phil:

Thank you for your letter of June 19. We too were deeply distressed by Herman's death--for many and obvious reasons. I did not realize that the unhappy event occurred at so awkward a time in regard to his oral history transcript. I really don't have any solution to the problem at the moment. Your suggestion to sit tight until his associates in New Haven have a chance to do something about his pending affairs seems sensible.

I suppose that the transcript becomes part of his estate, and that the executor--or Anne, if that part of the estate goes to her--could make the necessary decision. I'm not certain, however, that Anne is going to be able to deal with such matters because of the precarious state of her own health.

Sincerely,



JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

CC: Official File - N
Day File - N

JBRhoads/feb 6-30-75

8-20

degr

ADP

9-25-75

Phone call from: Lynn Gorski - 183-33821
Special Studies Programs, *PBS*

Dwight Ink is interested in having an ORAL HISTORY done on the
PBS Purchase Contract Program 1970--1974

1. Could it be done in-house? or--
2. When I asked her about funds she said *Mr. Ink suggested* ~~is are!~~

A grant could be given to the Public Works Historical Society
a private non-profit organization, who could do the work.

I assume he is thinking of our NHPC program when he mentions grants.

Ms. Gorski would be glad to come over here to talk with someone about it.

I promised someone would call her back to discuss.

BHS
BHSeemuller

**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ROUTING SLIP**

| TO | CO | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| NAME/TITLE | | | | | | CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL | | | | | |
| 1. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALLOTMENT SYMBOL | <input type="checkbox"/> HANDLE DIRECT | <input type="checkbox"/> READ AND DESTROY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> IMMEDIATE ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INITIALS | <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORRECTION | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR COMMENT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FILING | <input type="checkbox"/> PER OUR CONVERSATION | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FULL REPORT | <input type="checkbox"/> PER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____ | | |

REMARKS

I talked to Mrs Gorslin & explained how we couldn't do anything except advise. She understands, PBS has \$ but she cannot find a legal way to give it or contract it to the PWHS.

Jed

| FROM | CO | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | R5 | R6 | R7 | R8 | R9 | R10 |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----------------------|----|-----|
| NAME/TITLE | | | | | | CORR. SYMBOL | | | BUILDING, ROOM, ETC. | | |
| | | | | | | TELEPHONE | | | DATE | | |
| | | | | | | ND | | | 9/25/75 | | |

PHILIP C. BROOKS
10027 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD
SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351

Received NA-N 8-20

OCT 14 1975

Oct.10,1975

YBP

Dr. J. B. Rhoads
Archivist of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Bert:

We plan to be in Alexandria from October 15 to 29, though we still have our fingers crossed. How much we can do will depend much on how we feel, but one thing I would like to be sure to get in is a luncheon with you, and with Walt if possible.

Naturally, I would like to talk a bit about where we go from here on the oral history project, and we could do that either at luncheon or in the office, as you think best. It is moving along now.

I thought that if I wrote you a note in advance you or Fran could tell me on the telephone what day would be most convenient for you to have me come in. Preferably in the week of Oct. 20, We will get in late in the afternoon of Oct. 15, and leave in the morning of Oct. 29, so those days are out.

Cordially,

Phil

*Luncheon scheduled
10/22/75*

8-20
FBR

NATIONAL ARCHIVES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

STATUS OF INTERVIEWS

October 14, 1975

- 1. Page - Completed and turned in
 - 2. Harris - " " " "
 - 3. Price - " " " "
 - 4. H.G.Jones- " " " "
 - 5. Elsey - " " " "
 - 6. Tate - " " " "
 - 7. Lee " " " "
 - 8. Bahmer " " " "
 - 9. Angel " " " "
 - 10. Trever " " " "
 - 11. Holmes " " " "
 - 12. Bauer " " " "
 - 13. J.Larson- Done, but have given up hope of getting transcript back.
- Sent questions, to elicit written statements:
- 14. Posner-Completed and turned in
 - 15. Cappon - " " " "
 - 16. E.Hamer-Kegan - No response yet
- Not yet completed and turned in, but should be eventually
- 17. Kahn - Am in correspondence with his former secretary. Interview completed.
 - 18. Shipman - He has the transcript for review.
 - 19. Franklin - He has part of transcript for review. Rest in progress.
 - 20. Lewinson - In progress. Said little if anything not in several other interviews.
 - 21. Kimberly - In progress. " " " " " " Annual Reports.