

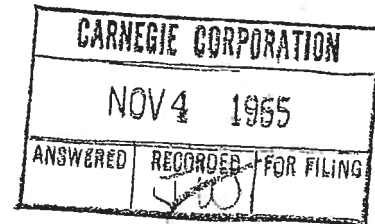
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NCTE - Anglo American Conference

November 3, 1965



Mr. Peter Caws
Staff Associate
Carnegie Corporation of New York
New York, N. Y.

Dear Peter:

I enclose a proposal requesting support for an International Seminar on The Teaching and Learning of English prepared jointly by British and American representatives of the National Association for Teaching English (U.K.), the Modern Language Association of America, and the National Council of Teachers of English which would administer the funds. Although leaders of the three associations conceived of the seminar, underwrote the expenses involved in calling a four-day planning meeting in England, and agree to accept certain basic responsibilities for follow-up activities, they conceive of the seminar not as an associational meeting but as a carefully planned international study seminar involving many of the best minds in scholarship and teaching from each country.

The planning committee which developed the proposal involved leaders of the various associations as well as English scholars from each country. The following individuals met at the Isle of Thorns conference center of the University of Sussex on October 25-28, 1965:

Douglas Barnes, Chairman of English, Michenden Grammar School, London

John H. Fisher, Executive Secretary, MLA; Professor of English, New York University

Boris Ford, Dean of Educational Studies, University of Sussex

Michael Halliday, Professor of Linguistics, University of London

Esmor Jones, Hon. Secretary, NATE; Chairman of English, Ashmead School, Reading

Albert R. Kitzhaber, Professor of English, University of Oregon

Elementary
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L. C. Knights, Professor of English, Cambridge University

Albert H. Marckwardt, Professor of English and Linguistics, Princeton University

James R. Squire, Executive Secretary, NCTE; Professor of English, University of Illinois

Denys Thompson, editor of The Use of English, British Journal

Frank Whitehead, Lecturer in English, Institute on Education, Sheffield University

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The members of this planning committee, agreed on the essential need for such an international seminar and on the potential impact of its results on schools in all English-speaking countries over the next decade or two, jointly request support for the proposal. A study seminar addressed to the basic problems described in the proposal and involving top scholars and specialists in the teaching of English from Britain, Canada, and the United States would make major intellectual resources of the three countries available to school planners for the first time. By meeting in an international body, the conferees would be released also from considering the often inhibiting problems of national custom and educational system, so that they might focus entirely on the teaching and learning of our common language and literature, its essential nature regardless of country, what it should and can be. The results of such a seminar, properly disseminated through appropriate developmental activities following the conference and coming during a time of curriculum upheaval, in both countries, could change the shape of English instruction for the next two decades.

Several of the English participants, including Messrs. Whitehead, Jones, and Thompson, will be attending the annual NCTE convention in Boston during Thanksgiving week. If you or other staff representatives wish to meet with them, I shall be pleased to make appropriate arrangements. Should you require additional information of any kind or wish to discuss the proposal in greater detail, I shall be happy to come to New York.

Very truly yours,

James R. Squire