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November 11, 1963

Professor Bennett H. Wall
Department of History
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Ben:

I still feel in the cold light of Monday morning that the Convention was a success. I never did hear any serious complaint at all about the arrangements. I suppose we were fortunate that it did not rain in as much as the Convention was in two hotels.

You asked us to gather whatever suggestions we may have with regard to future conventions as a result of our experience in Asheville. Here are several suggestions, some of which I have already mentioned to you, and points that should perhaps be raised in the Council.

1. Registration. It would probably be better to schedule the Wednesday night registration to run as late as 10 or 11 o'clock instead of closing at 8.30 as we did. Continuing the registration so late would make it possible to pick up those people who come in Wednesday night and relieve pressure on the registration on Thursday morning.

Another point in connection with registration is the desirability of having a definite understanding as to the number of helpers that would be needed. Even then I suspect it would be a good idea to play the old army game and have approximately twice as many people as we need. I think it would have been particularly desirable to have had more people around to relieve the people at the desk, especially during the rush hours since there were stretches of some hours at a time when people were unable to get away from the desk.

2. Local liaison. If there should be any affair scheduled at the next convention like the dinner for Frank Graham, I think it might be useful to have the local sponsoring group take a block of tickets in advance and make them available to the general public - that is, of course, provided it is something that would be of interest to the general public locally. I think we overlooked this point in connection with Frank Graham.

It would also be useful to raise the question in the Council as to the whole matter of participation of peripheral groups, particularly with respect to their responsibility for guarantees to the hotels and also

for providing some assistance with the registration at which their presence places an added burden.

3. Slave market. I discovered that a number of people came by the registration desk in the course of the Convention to inquire where they might go to find out about young men available for jobs. As it was, we had no arrangement whatever. I do not know that the question has been raised before but I think it should be brought up for consideration by the Council now as to whether we should maintain a file of names at some central location during future conventions. I believe that we should at least provide a bulletin board for this purpose and also for that matter as a place for people to leave any sort of notices or messages.

4. Television policy. As far as I know the question of televising our sessions has never arisen before, but Jim Silver's presidential address brought in representatives from at least two television stations. At Jim's request, as he said that the lights and whirring of the cameras would disturb him, I succeeded in chasing away one of the cameramen and in persuading the other who was a little more adept at evasion to stop taking pictures as soon as Jim got up to speak. All this attention because of the news value of Jim's speech took me, at least, a little by surprise and having given no thought to the matter before I simply acted on the basis of Jim's wishes in the matter. It may be preferable that this be an established policy—that the matter be for determination by the president giving his address. However, it is possible that the question might arise in the future in connection with some other session than the presidential address and we should have some definite established policy. It seems to me that if the Association is going to seek publicity in connection with these conventions, and presumably we do have something to say to the public, it might be inconsistent to exclude television coverage. On the other hand, our programs are addressed primarily to those in attendance and television lights and cameras may be disturbing factors to the speaker.

If any further thoughts occur to me I shall pass them on.

Cordially yours,

George B. Tindall