

anglo-american seminar

CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

SUBJECT

National Council of Teachers of English--International Meeting

DATE 11/17/65

JW

PARTICIPANTS

Albert Marckwardt, Princeton, & PC

LOCATION:

telephone

AM will be director of the project, and PC asked him whether there was anything he wanted to say about it. AM said he viewed this as an exercise in cross-fertilization, which would make available to the profession of English in the U.S. some of the extremely exciting new ideas now coming up in England, especially on the elementary and secondary levels. He thinks the U.S. has something to contribute to the English also. This exchange is bound to have a strong effect on future curriculum developments here, and the fact that most of the leaders of the profession, from whom reform might be expected to come, will be involved means that there is a real chance of lasting and comprehensive change. It is difficult to build in details of the follow-up at this stage, but AM is convinced that this will not be an empty exercise in terms of its real effect on curriculum.

AM's own leadership is likely to be exercised mostly on the linguistic side, and he hopes to be able to resolve some of the dogmatic differences between, for example, the descriptivist and prescriptivist schools. PC asked whether the list was perhaps not biased on the language side, and AM replied that he thought not, but that the ^{three} segments language, literature, and composition, were about evenly represented.

One of the most satisfactory things about the way this proposal has developed, in AM's view, is the way in which its preparation has led to the resolution of long-standing differences between NCTE and MLA. There are signs that such a reconciliation between school and university people may have been stimulated in England also by this experience, which is little short of miraculous.

PJC:cal
11/17/65