John H. Barcroft

Follow-up on our discussion of last week

I have tried to order in priority the discussion papers you asked for in our conversation last week. As I noted them at the time, they were as follows:

- 1) a general memo defining the state-based and special projects program, and identifying major problems;
- 2) a "good" state-based proposal, together with a comparative memo indicating what, from the staff's point of view, makes it "ggod;"
- 3) representative working papers which are used in the state-based and special projects programs;
- 4) a discussion paper about how we might involve ourselves with museums, both in terms of acquisition and in terms of special exhibit programs;
- 5) a discussion paper about how we might set up a program aiming at three different kinds of libraries (the collections of malfor universities, the high shhool library, and the "ordinary" public library.
- 6) a discussion paper about how we might support state, county, and local history, both in terms of research and in terms of publication.

If you don't mind, I will try to get the first three items to you by the middle of this week, in the hopes that we might be able to discuss them prior to dealing with the other three.

On the remaining three, I understand from Wallace Edgerton that Robert Kingston's office will be assembling material on past NEH library support, and also checking into the responsibilities of the Office of Education for library support. Therefore, I will concentrate on alternative ways we might involve ourselves in these three areas, and on what furtherrwe would need to find out before we moved. The library area in particular is one in which I think we are farthest away from having a performance record to build on; so my comments there will be pretty tentative.

If this staging is not all right, or if I have not got clear on what you want covered, could you let me know?