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Mr. Howard P. Willens
Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering
1666 K Street NW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Willens:

Your letter was here when I returned from Paris last night. I have read it with great interest and given it consideration all day. I think that a proper response will require two letters. So this first one will deal with the procedures of my coming over and some personal matters. The next, with the substance issues you raise.

1. The trip. May 4 and 5 are quite convenient and I shall plan to be there. I have a suggestion though, that I come a day early and spend that at the National Municipal League in New York reviewing recent materials and discussing recent developments (as well as personnel involved) with my friends there. This would help me considerably and increase, I believe, my ability to be of use to you. I would at the very least be able to prepare a more up-to-date bibliography of materials.

Since I am returning to the states I will take the opportunity to take care of some personal matters, including a visit to my seriously ill father in Georgia. This leads to another suggestion. There will be about a week's hiatus between our meeting on May 5 and my return here, so that if there is some purpose in my returning to Washington for another day--a week after our sessions--I can easily do so.

I appreciate your offer to have your office aid in arrangements. Perhaps it would be better if you could arrange for my airplane ticket to be sent to me or made available to me here or in London. That much of a cash layout for me would leave my family a bit strapped for the first of the month! Incidentally I do not travel first class on my own so I would not expect to for someone else.

So, I would suggest the following schedule for your consideration:

Sunday, May 2	Depart London for New York
Monday, May 3	In New York, to Washington that afternoon.
Tuesday, May 4	Washington
Wednesday May 5	
Tuesday, May 11	Washington again, or return to London.

If you don't feel the New York leg is desirable or necessary, then I could come directly to Washington on the 3rd. I will check the schedules from here tomorrow morning and pen a note of the most convenient flight before I post this.

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2. My expectations. In the past three years I have done very little consulting in this area. My involvements have been largely of a research nature. So I have no firm idea of my current worth. May I suggest for short term engagements such as that in the Washington trip a fee of \$150 per day. If it turns out that you will require my services on a longer term basis I assume we can negotiate. Under those circumstances what I would like is the same treatment as others in the enterprise who have the same credentials and equal responsibilities. That is rather general but it is the best I can do at the moment.

The pressure of time and responsibilities here force me to run the risk of seeming a bit presumptuous. But then you did raise the question of my future involvement in the project. Frankly I am quite interested in the enterprise and would welcome the opportunity to be a part of what promises to have some historical significance. Despite the unhappy consequence of a long separation from family and some interference with my current research interests here, I would be in position to commit myself to any amount of time this summer, to approximately September 1. However, if you might require a substantial portion of that time I would have to know very quickly. I have accepted a position in London beginning in September, for the academic session. Normally I would make arrangements for that position (it involves directing a college study abroad program) sporadically over the summer. Also I would move slowly in transferring the family from Cambridge to London. But if I am to be involved elsewhere then all that must be done before I take off, probably before June.

Thus I make the presumptuous suggestion. Could you be in a position to talk rather definitely with me when I am there? If so, I would be prepared to give you an answer. Of course, if you want only a relatively short period of my time (say, up to 30 days) there is no rush. Assuming the former though for the moment you will probably want to check me out with references. The people in the state constitutional area who know my work best probably are: Dr. William N. Cassella, executive director, National Municipal League, 47 East 68th Street, New York 10021. (Cassella is a political scientist). H. Vernon Eney, who was president of the Maryland Constitutional Convention, probably the most impressive individual I have ever met on the constitutional circuit, should be willing and is certainly able to comment on my abilities. I am not certain of his health at the moment. I do know he has suffered some set backs in recent years and may not be available. He is from Baltimore County and is an attorney.

Another from Maryland days is C. William Gilchrist, an attorney from Cumberland, who incidentally could give you information about Eney's present condition. (Eney, incidentally, is someone you will want to talk with about the substantive issues of a convention operation if he is available). A fellow Washington attorney with whom I have had close contacts is Alfred L. Scanlon. Finally, I would suggest that the best check on my talents as a college administrator would come from Robert B. Claytor, vice president of the Norfolk & Western Railway, Roanoke, Virginia, and chairman of the Hollins board of trustees. He is also an attorney.

3. One item of substance. You mentioned that you had ordered the manual I did several years ago, fifteen ^{in fact!} That publication was based upon rather solid though limited research but was written primarily for a "citizen" audience. Its purposes were more to educate and to interest than to provide a guideline. At the time that work was done the whole project seemed largely of interest to academicians and to the League of Women Voters. Then came Baker v. Carr. When that dam broke our stuff from the project was all that was available and it was rapidly converted into a "how-to-do-it" manual. Surprisingly it proved tremendously helpful, and was widely used, probably by every convention subsequently held and certainly by citizen groups pressing for constitutional revision.

As I indicated above limited research was done because there was little recent experience to draw upon. I dealt mostly with records of conventions and with the recollections of participants in the Alaska, Missouri, New York, and New Jersey conventions. As you know the 1960s provided a wealth of new resources. Three years ago the National Municipal League brought together, at a meeting near Chicago, about 20-30 people who had been very directly involved in recent convention efforts, to discuss with me the manual and its revision in the light of the testing it had received in the real situations of the 60s. I went there with the expectation that considerable change would be recommended for any revision. Indeed I felt that some substantial change was needed. But surprisingly, to a person, strong support was expressed for retaining the present form as well as the substantive advice given. It seemed to have weathered the test very well.

I ^{cite} ~~this~~ this, not to ring my own bell, but to indicate that the publication might actually be of some help in Mariannas. To the extent that the experience of the states is applicable at least, it is worth considering.

4. Summary of requests.

- a/ That you let me know as soon as possible if the suggested travel plans are acceptable to you.
- b/ That you send me a brief outline of the timetable you envisage for the project in the Mariannas.
- c/ That you arrange my transportation in one or the other of the ways I suggested. (The return can be left open at this time).
- d/ That you get me a hotel reservation for the nights of May 3 and 4 in Washington (and for the 2nd in NYC if that proposal is of interest to you).

I hope I have not unduly burdened you with all this. I am truly not one who feels you should never use one word if four will suffice! I thought some of these matters needed extended treatment. You have also suffered my typing which certainly proves that the greatest loss in my resigning the deanship at Hollins was losing my secretary.

Sincerely,


John P. Wheeler

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JOHN PERRY WHEELER, JR.

Biographical Data

Born: April 18, 1928, Thomasville Georgia

Married with five children

Education:

B.S.	Florida State University	1950
M.S.	Florida State University	1951
Ph.D.	Syracuse University	1958

Professional Experience:

Instructor, Political Science Middlebury College (Vermont)	1952-1955
Member of Faculty Hollins College (Virginia)	1955-1964
Professor, Political Science Hollins College (Virginia)	1964-1967
Dean of College Hollins College (Virginia)	1967-1976

Author:

The Constitutional Convention: A Manual on Its Planning, Organization and Operation	1961
Magnificent Failure: The Maryland Con-Con of 1967-1968	1969

Editor:

Salient Issues of Constitutional Revision	1961
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Memberships:

Roanoke City School Board
Phi Beta Kappa
Omicon Delta Kappa
American Political Science Association

Miscellaneous Activities:

Director, State Constitutional Studies Project, National Municipal League	1958-1961
Visiting Professor, Political Science United West Indies	1964-1965
Democratic Candidate for Congress	1962
Served, USAAF	1947-1948
Comdr, USNR	