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Letter to Sarah Leverette regarding SEAALL Annual Meeting, March 6, 1969

William Stern

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March 6, 1969

Miss Sarah Leverette, President
S.E. Chapter, AALL
University of South Carolina Law Library
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Dear Miss Leverette:

I was really touched by your very kind invitation to come to your Chapter Meeting which you will hold in New Orleans from August 24-26 of this year. This is the first invitation I have received and I note to appreciate it. I wish I could accept right away, but this would be premature for the following reasons. Hitherto, the Association has worked without a budget and expenses were paid as they arose. While the Executive Board went on record that we should operate on a budget starting with the coming Association year, we are still in the throes of preparing the budget. Inasmuch as I was one of the primary movers in favor of the budget, I feel it would be imprudent on my part to anticipate decisions which should be made under the budget. However, this situation may change if I should come to the conclusion that the budget will not be ready in time. Second, I have suggested that a Chapter visit should be made by the President-Elect for the reason that Chapter visits might familiarize the President-Elect with members who should be asked the following year to serve on committees and that the Chapter visits might enable the President-Elect to become more familiar with the desires of our membership for work projects and Association endeavors which require preparation before they can be started in the next Association year. This suggestion has not been acted upon as yet.

It may be an unfair question to ask, but I really would like to have your considered opinion whether you agree with the latter suggestion or whether you and your friends have reasons which would make it preferable for the President to appear at your meeting. Please be quite frank about this point and it goes without saying that I consider this correspondence confidential. I suppose you know that Morris Cohen will become the President-Elect and I am sure that all of us consider him outstanding and I wonder whether the real question is whether you and your friends consider it preferable that the incoming President becomes more familiar with the desires of Association members by going to your Chapter Meeting or Chapter Meetings in general, or whether it may be more desirable that the President-elect acquires this knowledge. All in all, I consider Chapter visits of great importance as they are almost the only opportunity to become familiar with the important groups of our membership.
So, I wish I would hear from you. This is particularly important as, at this time, expenses of the President-Elect are not paid by the Association except in specially approved instances and if we were to decide that the President-Elect should make Chapter visits, we would have to provide in the projected budget accordingly. I assume that the decision concerning all these matters is mine because the Executive Board will not meet prior to the Houston meeting, and I do not want to act hastily, prematurely, or without knowing what the membership desires. Until I hear from you, I will not even ask Mr. Cohen whether he would have time in August to go to a Chapter meeting. In conclusion, I have to think of so many aspects that I am glad that you brought the various subjects involved to a head by your very kind invitation.

In any event, I am greatly looking forward to receiving the program of your meeting when it becomes available.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

William B. Stern
President-Elect

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