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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106

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Professor Walter Capps
Syracuse University
Department of Religion
Syracuse, New York 13210

Dear Walt:

Thanks for your recent letters -- the one on Eloise was very helpful and I'll use it in an official way, if you don't object. Actually, your letter expresses the majority view of the department.

On the Joe Blau issue, one additional comment which may prove useful to you if you see Joe in New York. Evidently on some occasion last year you wrote a letter to a Mr. Seddle (I'm not quite sure of the spelling of his name) at the ACLS in which somehow you called into question Joe Blau's or the ACLS' role in the pioneering figures project. In any case, you may not realize that the letter was read out at a meeting of the Committee on the History of Religions of the ACLS at which meeting both Blau and Kitagawa were present. As I understand it, that is what triggered Blau's unhappiness. I have not seen the letter, but I did hear Joe Blau describe its content in a rather unflattering manner.

On the matter of Bob McDermott's typology and our colleague, Raimundo, the only thing that comes to mind, which you probably know, is Milton Singer's critique of Weber's typologizing in his When a Great Tradition Modernizes. Also, Radhakrishnan, Suzuki, Tagore, et. al., have done comparable things, but I suspect that you also know about those.

I'm busy trying to finish a paper on "Political Modernization and the Neo-Hindu Elite" for the upcoming AAR meetings -- I'm really locked in on that one! As usual I should have started sooner.

In terms of business, would you believe a fall enrollment of 1133? Incredible! Also, interestingly, I note a decided swing back to subjects like Christianity and American religion -- possibly a Bicentennial product. By the way, Ninian Smart wants to join our faculty on a January-June schedule each year. What do you think about that?

Cheers and take care.