

Holden Village, Wn.

Sept. 1, 1974

Dear Otis —

You and I have shared our attitudes toward vacation times. It would surprise you, then, to learn that I'm writing this while on vacation up here in Washington State, a hundred miles or so from the Canadian border. It's a beautiful old former mining camp. I've been doing a few things on the program, teaching a course on creative writing as well as offering some evening lectures on contemporary trends in religion.

It's not monasticism that I write about, but rather my interest in becoming more a part of the work of the Center. I'm not altogether sure what I'm asking in that regard. It's simply that I believe in what you are doing, knowing it's necessary for specialists to approach significant subjects and issues in a common language, and seeing that the Center itself is an instrument in shaping contemporary culture. My specific training is in religious studies, but I believe I am a humanities person first of all. As I told you, I have put in two stints at the Warburg Institute in London in art history and iconography. I'll be teaching a course on this subject in the College of Creative Studies in the winter. I'm also pretty

well schooled in history of philosophy, modern western intellectual history, and the history of education. My work in religious studies covers a rather large area. I simply mention in this regard that I'll be writing the major article on "Religion" for the World Book Encyclopedia. I have been teaching a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers, and will no doubt do the same next summer too. At the moment I have two books in press, one on American Indian ways of perceiving (entitled Seeing With a Native Eye), to be published by Harper & Row, and the other on Erik Erikson. Two additional books are in process, one on "interior religions" (monasticism and mysticism) in the West, and another on the history of the study of religion. I'm busier than I can afford to be, but I would allow much of it to go if my participation in the life of the Center were to become more extensive and frequent. I think I want to claim that I'm very well versed in contemporary trends in religion, because I perceive the same against a rather large background in the Humanities.

It's a matter of age, in a way, too. I've been doing a lot of building and experimentation.

All of this has been good, but I'm ready for something more. Now I really want an opportunity to integrate in an interdisciplinary manner — for the sake of wisdom and personal integrity. I sense that the Center may be ideal for this purpose. And I also believe that I am ready to make a larger contribution.

We return to Santa Barbara before school begins on the 13th. If there is more to pursue here, I'd like to get together with you. In the meantime, I'll continue enjoying our vacation, in the manner both of us agreed is best.

Sincerely,

Walter