

April 16, 1951

Dear Richard:

It was nice of you to write, and the news was most welcome, even if not exciting. I do hope something turns up to break the routine, but even that, in a philosophic perspective, can afford some satisfaction in these days of tragic confusion and frustration. Dont chuck the job until something better turns up, but I do hope something will.

I'll look forward to seeing you and your friend that May week-end. I hope to stay in D.C. a little more than usual. Because I have been on leave since March 25th, to do a book mss. The Negro in American Culture is to be the title, and Knopf and The New American Library have jointly contracts, the one for the library edition and the other for the paper bound reprint. I must cut out any wide travelling, I am afraid for the summer, so I am just back from a farewell fling of a few days in Mexico.

I have npticed Jackson over the years, but his personal connections and attachments seemed formidable obstacles to any very constructive contacts. You will know what the present prospects are, and I would be inclined to trust your judgment. If you feel I could be of any real use, ask him to phone me at the house for an appointment. I go to New York only alternate week-ends under the present restricted regime.

I thought Josephine Baker really formidable this time. She has matured immeasurably. I have missed Primus concerts right and left, but I did see Green Pastures, and liked it especially the new "Lawd" and "Noah"

Cordial greetings!

Sincerely,
Alvin Karpis