

166 EAST 71st STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.
RHINELANDER 4-5289

May 26, 1947

Dear Vern,

We have been doing some arithmetic and the figures tell us that it is time we all took action.

You know the Island House is ours for at least a ten-year lease. It is the triumphant conclusion of a long battle. It saves our having to buy it. However, we do have to give it adequate fire protection for our own good. Necessary, minimum improvements to this end, including Bennett and Murray as well, will possibly cost sixty thousand dollars. The State insists that this work be completed before we can use the hotels above the second floor.

Additions to equipment, alterations for more effective operation of Island House may total another twenty-five thousand.

There are certain properties down by Mission House which can be had for low prices now and should be added to our facilities for needed playgrounds, future building sites, etc. We estimate another fifteen thousand dollars.

General team funds which might have covered some of this outlay have been poured into the Michigan campaign which has borne such rich fruit for us all. More will be needed for the days in Detroit, that primary battleground of the war of ideas. So new funds are needed for the Mackinac Island developments.

This adds up to our needing \$100,000 now so that the work can go forward quickly and the hotels be prepared for use. This letter is going to the group who acted together last Summer as a financial team and to a few others. It is our suggestion that each of us takes action to call the teams together, at least those people who are ready to think and to take responsibility in this sphere. Now is the time to invest in Island House which so many have wanted to do.

You may want to let us know the results of your acts so that everybody can keep informed. The need is for miracles, and miracles are news.

Your team will undoubtedly want to contact Garrett directly. He has done a superb job this Winter in keeping the team up on the front line.

Grateful for you,

Bill Wilkes

1 Jan