

February 7, 1974

Mr. Rogers C.B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Permit me in my capacity as a folklorist and the head of a graduate program in folk studies to bring an important matter to your attention. I would like to explore with you the possibility of employment for professionally trained folklorists in the National Park Service and other divisions of the Department of the Interior. These divisions have employed professional historians, naturalists, environmentalists, and others in important positions of public service. Folklore and folklife specialists are uniquely qualified to fill parallel positions, and deserve the privilege of demonstrating their capabilities. As keen observers of public opinion and sentiment at the grass roots level, folklorists can perform a vital service as our nation becomes more and more urbanized and torn loose from its traditional moorings.

I am not looking for a job for myself, but can identify marvelously energetic and well-trained graduate students who would be most useful in your divisions. I would appreciate it very much if you would call this matter to the attention of your various division chiefs.

I would be most happy to come to Washington to discuss this matter, or would welcome a visit by you or an assistant here in Kentucky.

Sincerely yours,

Lynwood Montell, Coordinator
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