

POLICY

Administration

EAGLETON, CLYDE A.

Biography

AYDELOTTE, F.

✓I.A.S.

Academic Standards

Clyde Eagleton (New York Univ., Washington Square, N.Y.) to Aydelotte (Swarthmore)

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"Being at Princeton yesterday reminded me that it is to be your scene of activity. I had hoped to talk to you about that when ~~xxxxxxxx~~ I was at Swarthmore, but you were away and I believe that I have never written you. I am pleased that you are to direct the Institute because I have been rather disappointed in it and can now hope that something constructive will be done there. (That compliment, sir, was no slip!) Aside from mathematics, which has possibly been overdone (comparatively, certainly), the Institute seems to have done little. I have been particularly disappointed in the social science field and unable to understand why even the few men working in that field were of no higher calibre. (I think Earle is all right).

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"And study in this field leads into many problems of democratic government-- which I think is at a much more critical stage than most people realize. We shall have to participate in international affairs more and more. How can we do so effectively with our present system? In the Republican Program in this morning's paper I find the statement that our foreign policy should be flexible enough so that 'we can adopt the measures that will, at any given time, most effectively serve both of these purposes.' How can a democratic system do this? For example, suppose we wish to contribute something to the peace settlement (which won't be much good unless we do). How can our government find out in advance what the people want to contribute so that the government can safely offer it? This is Stanley Hornbeck's problem. We don't want to upset the world again by reneging on the peace treaty after it is made. How can we, in time to do any good, teach the people what we as a nation ought to do when a new situation appears? How, even, can we find out what the people want, when they know? Or, does democracy really mean that we must wait for the people to decide? I speak of the international situation only; the internal problems are also grave. We talk about responsibility of the government in a democracy, but we have never investigated the responsibility of the individual in a democracy.

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"I understand that the I_nstitute has three men in Economics, all engaged in the same kind of work; one in H₁story and none in Political Science, much less in international affairs. I hear, too, that the History man does not even know what the Economics men are doing; yet I should think the I_nstitute would offer a rare opportunity for coordinated attack on a problem from various angles."

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File II-15