

Division of Wildlife Management

424 University Farm Place
March 25, 1939

Personal

Mr. M. O. Steen
c/o U. S. Biological Survey
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Steen:

Walter Scott tells me you have approved the Prairie du Sac Project (Pittman-Robertson) for a five-year period, but disapproved any "retroactive payments."

I can see that there might be fiscal objections to retroactive salary checks, but meanwhile I am out my personal funds which I have spent trying to keep up the continuity of the census.

Would it be fiscally possible for you to approve an expense account? It would bear a date subsequent to the signing of the agreement, whereas a salary check could not.

Can you think of any other way in which I can recover my outlay? I made this outlay to preserve the scientific value of the project. Obviously it loses value if the continuity of the census is interrupted.

I would appreciate any personal advice you can give me.

Yours sincerely,

Aldo Leopold
Professor of Wildlife Management

P.S. As far as I know, this is the longest continuous accurate small game census in the U.S., and it is continuous only because of considerable effort by Errington and myself. It has been three years since there were any university funds to keep it going. One year we got the National Association of Audubon Societies to carry it; one year there was a gift, this year I have carried it personally. I have paid Gastrow \$40 per month for November, December, and January, and now owe him for February and in a few days will owe him for March.

A.L.

cc Scott

Errington✓