

March 9, 1959

Dr. H. Richard Niebuhr  
Chairman, Graduate Faculty of Religion  
Yale University  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Professor Niebuhr,

Thank you for the suggestions of your letter of February 18th.

I am glad that you suggested that I translate all the German phrases. I was uncertain as to whether I should leave the important phrases in German, since it is sometimes almost impossible to find accurate English equivalents. The only reason I left them in German was in an attempt to be scrupulously fair to the author's position. I realize, however, that this was in a sense a way of evading the responsibility of translating these ideas into English. I assure you that in subsequent drafts I will correct this "academic Pennsylvania Dutch".

With regard to your question concerning whether I was depending upon you for assistance in locating a position this fall, I would like to reply that I have not yet made plans for the fall and would very much appreciate it if you might help. More specifically, my situation is this: I could stay at Perkins for another year, while Dr. Outler is on leave of absence. The only reason I would accept this as a temporary position, however, would be in the event that I did not find a more suitable permanent position this spring. In short, I am still looking for a place to teach, preferably Christian ethics, and preferably in the Midwest or South, and would be very grateful if you could help me.

I agree that July 1 is a good target date for the submitting of my dissertation. May 1 would have pressed me too much. I am now re-drafting the sections on the Biblical and Kantian doctrines of obedience, and I should be through in a couple of weeks. Would you like to read these revised drafts or should I hold them all until July 1? I am not changing the Kantian section very much, but the Biblical section required radical, almost total, renovation.

I shall look forward to your comments on Bultmann and Barth sections, and please forgive me for my miserable academic Pennsylvania Dutch.

Sincerely,

*John C. O'Brien*

