

[John Kelly]

July 14, 1958

Dear Walt,

Very happy to let you know that Robert Le House is very interested in the possibility of coming to Hawaii and to Palama Settlement. I believe this is a fine break for us and for Palama - Bob has tremendous skill as a dancer and is a fine person in outlook and attitude toward people. His interest in coming to Hawaii for a year or more supersedes a movie contract, commercial tours and work at SC and Idyllwild primarily because he wants more than financial success to be in touch with peoples of the world and especially of the orient as spiritual and technical nourishment for his art.

In our talks I pointed out that at Palama he would be able to teach dancing, perform himself, and also act as a resource person to meet with club groups to teach them not only songs and if they wish dancing, but also to discuss African cultural and social life which would add greatly to the world consciousness and wider perspectives of our youth.

Bob is in agreement with these objectives and said last night that he would be ready to arrive in Honolulu in September.

I am sure the thought has occurred to you that this is a very good time to have such people as Bob working for Palama who have fine performing abilities and can represent Palama's cultural work to the community - appropo the capital funds drive of the next few years.

If plans for the folk festival at Easter time develop, Bob would be a most important resource too - wait until you see and hear his terrific abilities in getting audience response from large groups while he sings and dances! Next to Pete Seeger who works in a different media, I have never seen anyone or anything as impressive.

Concerning salary I would suggest you write to him immediately and make an offer. His address is:

2535 Longwood Ave.
Los Angeles 16, Calif.

He leaves Idyllwild today for Los Angeles - and in case we see him again it may facilitate matters if you sent me a carbon.

I would suggest something at least around \$3900 part of which would be made up from teaching fees. Can you extent travel allowance to Hawaii? I believe that would be in order.

Am quite excited over this prospect, Walt, and appreciate your initiating the idea very much.

Concerning Marais and Miranda we have had two very pleasant

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evenings with them and I now have a mammoth score of the Africana Suite for you to see which we can get to Barati....and a copy of Tony Beaver which as a humorous folk operetta would best be done by one of the high schools in Honolulu.

They have suggested October, 1959, as the earliest possible booking. The key to fulfilling this possibility will be getting Barati to agree to do the work as part of the symphony season around which some folk song recitals and community performances could be built. Joseph mentioned that actual arrangements, contract, etc., would be done through their booking agent.

Another point concerning Bob Le House: He will mail to you a summary of his work with universities in the United States and his tours and performances.) — ?

This has to be all for now, as the morning 8:30 sing begins in 20 minutes.

We all send our Aloha to you and give my regards to all the staff.

John