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Subject: Employment Prospects; Trying again
TO: MAIL403 @ OSU.EDU @ INTERNET @ INTERLIANT.CC. FROM: JEREMY GUNN/ARRBDATE: 04/21/98 08:05:23
AMSubject: Employment Prospects; Trying againKermit,I don't understand why some of my messages are not getting through to you. This makes me wonder what messages you may not be receiving. I do have the sense that you receive my weekly updates on the conference calls. I have been consistent in sending them -- so if you don't get one please let me know. I would much appreciate it if you could let me know when you receive this. I also would like to talk to you by phone about this if you have some time.I will provide a brief description of where I am in the job market for next year. I have an update from yesterday, and I will begin with it.In an unexpected offer yesterday, I was asked whether I would be willing to turn the article that I prepared for your Constitutionalism conference last year into a full-length manuscript to be published in a 12-volume series that will begin publication later this year. The editor of the series is John Witte at Emory, with whom I have worked on several projects. He liked the article sufficiently to suggest that it be expanded. The publisher of the series is Orbis. Witte said yesterday he is sending me a contract. I am inclined to go forward with it, but I have not finally committed myself to doing so. John Witte and I discussed whether I should apply for an NEH grant (deadline May 1). He offered send a very strong letter in my support. I now need to decide promptly whether to apply. (I worked as a grants reviewer for NEH in the late 1970s and I have a reasonably good background sense of the procedures and politics -- that is what they were like back then). I know that two likely concerns of the panel will be: (a) my lack of knowledge of Central and Eastern European languages, and (b) whether the project is really "humanities." My thoughts for addressing these (legitimate) concerns are: (a) all of my education is in the humanities (Ph.D. in Arts & Sciences at Harvard; M.A. in "General Studies in Humanities" at the U. of Chicago, and undergraduate degree in Humanities); (b) expanding the scope of the project by including within the comparative study countries with which I have some language facility (i.e., US, France, Spain, Germany, Great Britain) and perhaps reducing the number of CEE countries (my Harvard dissertation, which was published by Garland, is on the 18th century philosophical background of the Establishment Clause); (c) de-emphasizing the strictly legal issues and adding more cultural and philosophical background. I don't know whether that will be sufficient. I am very interested in your thoughts and insights on this issue. I am also interested in knowing whether you might be willing to be a reference if I were to go ahead with this. With respect to more traditional employment, which I will of course be pursuing regardless of whether I apply for the NEH grant, I would of course like to work in an area where I can combine my interests with my work experience. My first choice would be institutions such as the U.S. Institute of Peace (where I have good

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