

110a Carrington Road,
Randwick, Sydney,
N.S.W., Australia.

April 22nd, 1960.

William L. Slayton,
Webb and Knapp National Corporation,
1012 14th Street N.W.,
Washington 5, D.C.

Dear Bill:

The six months I needed to fix up family affairs in Sydney are now over. In the meantime, the family has a new member, a baby boy, just eight weeks old - my first of course.

I've written to Eason Leonard, inquiring about his prospective staffing needs and the chances of being asked back to I.M.Pei and Associates. You will remember that Eason and Vince Ponte agreed that if they had a vacancy they would take me back into the team again at this time.

I'm now writing in much the same vein to you, in your position as head of the planning side of W. and K. work. You have had some indication of my keenness and ability to fit into W. and K. operations, and I have been wondering whether, if there is no immediate vacancy for me in the N.Y. office of I.M.Pei, you might be able to make good use of me in some other part of the organisation.

While you're considering that, here is some news and a different sort of inquiry from down-under:- Australia is enjoying the greatest period of expansion in her history, at a rate of growth which parallels that of the U.S. at her peak. Corporation take-overs and amalgamations are the order of the day, as organisations gird themselves for bigger things to come. This is particularly true of construction, real estate and urban development firms.

There's plenty of capital available here; in fact, there's more capital available than there are ideas and manpower to put it into proper use. The crying need here is for managerial skill which can most effectively put capital to use on

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a large scale. Webb and Knapp attracts much attention here on that score. I've been approached several times concerning the possibility of attracting W. and K. to come to Australia and clean up the profits possible here in urban redevelopment and new development. The head of one of the oldest and largest construction companies, for example, asked me if W.Z. Sr. would consider visiting Sydney to see the prospects for himself -- with all expenses paid by the host. The Lord Mayor of Sydney is keen to obtain private sponsorship and management for some large redevelopment opportunities, and called on W.Z. recently in N.Y. to try to open the subject with him. Another Sydney man, a Mr Dusseldorp, has also badgered W.Z. about Sydney in recent months.

But I've told all these people that W. and K. appears to have its hands full with commitments in the U.S. and Canada. Further I've pointed out that W.Z. himself has a considerable degree of uninterest in Australia, based though it may be on out-of-date information. All in all, I've discouraged people from thinking that W. and K. would find it possible to extend their activities so far away from New York.

I've been busy during my time here fulfilling requests to speak on urban renewal and "the future of Sydney" at various public and other meetings. I've delivered a paper on U.S. urban renewal and its potential relevance to Australian conditions at a joint meeting of the Australian Planning Institute and other professional bodies. I've been invited to address a private conference of the majority-party members of the City Council, at which the city's planning and redevelopment policies for the next three years will be set. This confab is in ten days time, and could lead to real action, given the present enthusiastic attitude of the politicians. They're in a mood to relish W.Z.'s dictum :- "don't plan in a test-tube when you should be using a bucket".

A group of top private enterprise leaders have also sought my assistance with their idea of forming a U.S. type "citizens' organisation" to spearhead urban renewal. Altogether, the field here is wide open for a repetition of the Philadelphia story. But unless skilled and sophisticated planning organisations can be properly formed, then helter-sketter speculation and haphazard urban growth will continue.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,