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May 22, 1979

Mrs. Zena Sutherland
1418 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Zena:

I have Sue Glazer's letter announcing the committee you are heading to research possible alternatives to the Newbery Dinner, and I'm much pleased that you and your group are going to be taking a good hard look at this. I think that the Dinner may well have outgrown its original purpose while at the same time becoming more exclusionary for the general membership. The most practical alternative that comes to mind is to base the awards on a program similar to that for the National Book Awards. In other words, the prize winners would deliver their acceptances to an audience in an auditorium setting and a reception could then be arranged immediately afterward.

I'll be much interested to hear what develops from the committee's work-- I'm sure something constructive!

Affectionately,

Conrad

CCE:aa

Epstein