

+
file

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois
September 28, 1946

Dear Mr. Kimpton:

Dean Robert Redfield informed me by letter dated September 20, that he has transmitted to the Central Administration a proposal for my appointment as professor of Biophysics under a 4-E contract. I have advised him that I shall be pleased to accept the appointment under the terms specified in his letter.

It is my understanding that there is nothing contained in the 4-E contract which would curtail my rights in inventions made prior to my employment by the University, even though some of these inventions may not have been filed in the form of patent applications. In the circumstances I believe that it might be advisable that I should submit to you a list of inventions which fall into this category and for which the conception date precedes the beginning of my employment. They are now in the process of being written down in detail and patent applications may be filed for some or all of them after the description and drawings have been completed in the required form. The enclosed list of inventions gives as much detail as is required for identifying these inventions and I would appreciate confirmation of its receipt.

Very sincerely yours,

LS
Leo Szilard

Mr. Lawrence A. Kimpton
Dean of Faculties
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

1155 E. 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois
September 27, 1946

Dear Mr. Kimpton:

Dean Robert Redfield informed me by letter dated September 20, that he has transmitted to the Central Administration a proposal for my appointment as professor of Biophysics under a 4-E contract. I have advised him that I shall be pleased to accept the appointment under the terms specified in his letter.

It is my understanding that there is nothing contained in the 4-E contract which would curtail my rights in inventions made prior to my employment by the University, even though some of these inventions may not have been filed in the form of patent applications. In the circumstances I believe that it might be advisable for me to submit to you a list of inventions which fall into this category, giving just as much details as are needed to identify the inventions with sufficient accuracy. You will find such a list attached to this letter and I would appreciate it if you would be good enough to confirm its receipt.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

Mr. Lawrence A. Kimpton
Dean of Faculties
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois

October 7, 1946

Mr. L. A. Kimpton
Central Administration
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kimpton:

I have discussed with Mr. Bartky, as you suggested, the details of the four inventions which were listed in my letter to you dated September 28, 1946. I also discussed with him the details of a fifth invention which was not included in that letter. This fifth invention is defined on the enclosed page.

With regard to inventions which I may make during my employment at the University under a 4-E contract, I shall not make any arrangements with any third party without first clearing the matter with the University. Therefore it does not seem necessary at the present time to raise questions relating to hypothetical situations which may, in fact, never arise. By proceeding in this manner, the University can treat each case on its merits without laying down hard and fast rules in advance.

I hope that this is fully satisfactory to you.

Very sincerely yours,



Leo Szilard

LS/rr

encl.

LIST OF INVENTIONS attached to letter of October 7, 1946

5. A method for growing micro-organisms in bulk on surfaces rather than in suspension, which may be applicable in the production of antibiotic substances. It is characterized by having a large volume filled with porous ceramic bodies, leaving air spaces free between these bodies. The nutrient solution is absorbed in the porous bodies and micro-organisms are permitted to grow on the surfaces of the porous bodies.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

DATE October 9, 1946

TO Mr. Leo Szilard

DEPARTMENT Biophysics

FROM L. A. Kimpton

DEPARTMENT Central Administration

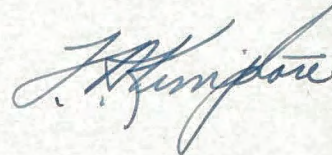
IN RE:

Reference is made to your memorandum of October 7, 1946 and to Mr. Bartky's letter of that same date indicating that he is satisfied that the five inventions you have listed may be regarded as completed. Mr. Bartky's statement along with your own that you will, during your employment at the University, make no arrangements about any invention of your own with any third party without clearing the matter with the office of the Central Administration satisfies all the conditions of your appointment, and we are requesting the Comptroller to issue you your contract in accordance with the negotiations which have been conducted with Mr. Redfield of the Division of the Social Sciences.

We regard the five inventions listed in your letter of October 7 as having been completed prior to your contract with the University, and we make no claim upon these inventions under your 4E contract.

I hope you will not hesitate to call on us in the office of the Central Administration if we can be of counsel to you.

cc: Mr. Bartky



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO 37 · ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

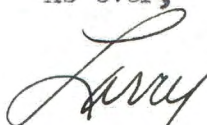
December 10, 1954

Mr. Leo Szilard
o/o A. N. Spanel
The International Latex Company
350 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Dear Leo:

I'm sorry that I didn't have the chance to talk with you the other day when we ran into each other at the Quadrangle Club. I had thought the whole matter was decided with regard to your title. We are unwilling in this office to add the word Biophysics to your title, Professor of Social Sciences. The reasons I think are fairly clear. It is assumed that your activity for the Committee on Social Thought will be in the field of the Social Sciences, and I am not clear that anything is gained by adding Biophysics which seems to involve some commitment on your part, and on the University's part, in terms of your continuing activity in that field. This is not contemplated in terms of the appointment.

As ever,



Lawrence A. Kimpton

Kings Crown Hotel
420 W. 116th St
New York, N. Y.
February 13, 1955

Mr. Lawrence A. Kimpton
Office of the Chancellor
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kimpton:

I delayed answering your letter of December 10th in the hope that I could come to Chicago and discuss the matter with you. However, I contracted some mild flu-like disease, from which recovery was very slow and, subsequently, I developed double vision. Beyond the fact that this is due to paralysis of the sixth cranial nerve (the whole purpose of which seems to be to innervate one muscle of the eye), the etiology is unknown. I manage to navigate by keeping one eye covered but I had to undergo all sorts of medical tests, so far all with negative results, and I might have to undergo some treatment (which I have, so far, successfully resisted). I think I could come to Chicago now and discuss this matter with you, if necessary, but in any case I do not want to delay answering your letter any longer.

Whether I am called Professor of Biophysics or Professor of the Social Sciences is not a matter of world shaking importance, but before accepting the title of Professor of the Social Sciences, I must make sure that your intention to give me this title is not the result of a misunderstanding.

I do not know whether the arrangement at which we arrived with Mr. Grodzins is the best possible solution of the problem of extricating ourselves from an awkward situation (caused by the dissolution of the Institute of Radiobiology ^{Bio} and Physics) with the minimum of damage to me and the minimum of cost to the University. Perhaps, as time goes on, we can think up a better solution. However, the arrangement appeared to be a tolerable modus vivendi.

I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Grodzin's letter which sets forth this arrangement and, if you will glance at it, you will see that it acknowledges my continued interest in the field of Biophysics. There is nothing in that letter that would preclude my spending most of, if not all of, my time on problems in Biophysics, which is at present my professional field.

I had the first indication that there might be some misunderstanding in your office concerning my contemplated activities when I received from the Comptroller's office a new contract in which I was designated as Professor of the Social Sciences. I told Mr. Grodzins that, before signing such a contract, I wanted to make sure that you understood that my competence is and will remain in the field of Biophysics, and that I do not claim any competence in the field of the Social Sciences. Since you were at that time in Europe, Mr. Grodzins said that he would await your return and, when he resigned, he suggested that I discuss the matter with you directly. I regretted that when I saw you in Chicago early in December, there was no possibility to clear it up. Writing is such an unsatisfactory way of communicating

thoughts (or concealing their absence).

Clearly, I am not qualified to teach in any of the branches of the Social Sciences, nor do I have any intention of engaging in "research" in this field. True, I am very much interested in certain social problems and particularly the problem of how, in view of the existence of atomic bombs, peace could be maintained. This is a problem which requires thought, and any proposed solution will have to be based on certain insights, but it does not involve "research." The fact is that, while we do not know very much about social behavior, if we applied what we now know (and know not from any "research", but from the knowledge of Man derived from insight into our own motivations and from history), we could very nearly have paradise on earth right now. None of the social problems in which I am interested require "research" in the field of the Social Sciences, or are likely, substantially, to benefit by it.

You might very well ask why I was willing to join the Division of the Social Sciences when my main interest is likely to remain in physics and biology. This is a good question, and I am prepared to give a good answer if you wish to raise it.

In these circumstances you might wonder if conferring on me the designation of Professor of the Social Sciences, when I do not claim any competence in this field, might not be rightly resented by the staff members of the Social Science Division. There is another consideration, also, that should be taken into account; if I am designated as Professor of the Social Sciences, this will find its way into the American Men of Science and Who's Who and would

lead people, mistakenly, to believe that I have left my professional field, which I have no intention of doing, if I can help it.

I wonder whether you would - in the light of the information given above - consider the following questions:

1) Is it, under the circumstances, necessary for me to enter into a new contract with the University involving a change of title, and, if so, why?

2) Is it advisable to drop my designation of Professor of Biophysics which, apart from physics, is the only field in which I can, and do, claim professional competence and which is likely to continue to claim most of my attention?

3) Is it advisable that I should carry the title of Professor of the Social Sciences when I do not regard myself as competent in that field?

I do not wish to involve you in a lengthy correspondence in this matter and would like, in any case before formally accepting the title of Professor of the Social Sciences by signing a new contract, to discuss it in person with you at your convenience.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

LS/nr