

Metallurgical Laboratory  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois  
January 5, 1946

Mr. Louis S. Rosenstiel  
Room 3703 - 350 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Rosenstiel:

I hope you will not think me "uncharitable" for writing you this letter in return for your kind Christmas card but I would like to tell you about a tentative plan of the atomic scientists and get your advice and perhaps also your financial help.

The idea is of doing some timely "educational" work in Washington on members of Congress under the guise of "lobbying". I shall try and describe the plan to you in its present form which is still subject to change. I myself find it difficult to reach a definite conclusion as to its value but I just did some telephoning with Washington and the reaction there seems to be rather favorable both to the general idea and to its specific form.

According to this plan, four or five of the younger people who are nowadays in Washington, in connection with the work of the Federation of the Atomic Scientists and four or five of the more prominent atomic scientists whom we would ship to Washington for periods ranging from two to four weeks, would meet senators and members of the House of Representatives at dinners, during the period from January 20th to the end of March. Dinners would be arranged for five days in the week and at each of these dinners there would be two tables set, each for ten men, half of whom would be scientists and the other half, either congressmen or senators. It seems best to keep the group small in order to give each member of Congress the opportunity to express all his thoughts on the subject and ask all the questions that may come into his mind. The list of scientists to be approached ought to include J. Oppenheimer of Pasadena, Robert Wilson of Harvard, Enrico Fermi and H. D. Smyth of Princeton, and others. They have so far not been contacted but all those who were, expressed their willingness to put in two weeks or more, i.e., J. C. Stearns, of Washington University,

January 5, 1946

St. Louis, Dr. H. C. Urey and Walter Bartky of Chicago. The funds needed for eating our way through Congress are estimated to be about \$10,000.00. They will consist of the following items: 1. Cost of dinners, about \$4,000.00 2. Travelling expenses, expenses for stay in Washington and possibly, in rare cases, salary replacement for some of the four or five prominent scientists, aggregating to about \$6,000.00. No expenses will be incurred in connection with the younger men from the Federation of Atomic Scientists, since the Federation will take care of them.

You might not think that this is a very effective way of educating Congress and in this case your views on the subject would be of interest to us. On the other hand, if you think we ought to go ahead, then we would appreciate your financial help for such part of the total sum as you would wish to take upon yourself. Since we are not properly equipped to handle funds, I thought of asking Oscar Cox, Leon Henderson or Michael Straight to act as trustees, either individually or jointly, for this enterprise and to accept checks made out in one of their names. I have not talked to them about it but since all of them have offered to help at an earlier occasion in rather similar circumstances, I know that we can count on them.

Even though we do not have the intention of discussing any particular legislation, our activities might be classed as "lobbying" and donations for this purpose might therefore not be deductible from income tax.

It may be that the very last thing of which you wish to be reminded just now is Congress and the Atomic Bomb, but however that may be, I hope that you will go on looking at every new acquaintance as a potential asset rather than a potential liability.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

LS:n



*Very Best Wishes  
for the Holiday Season*

*Mr. and Mrs. Lewis S. Rosenstiel*

June 30, 1955

Mr. Lewis Rosenstiel  
Schenley Industries  
350 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Rosenstiel:

After you spoke to me I began to make a few inquiries in order to get oriented about the nature of the problem which we discussed. One of the men with whom I talked was Dr. Jacobson, Director of the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital at the University of Chicago. I am enclosing copy of a letter which I received from him, for your files on the assumption that it might be useful to whoever is going to undertake the task which we discussed.

When I last phoned your office, I was told you were still out of town. I shall keep in touch with your office as best I can so that if you should wish to continue our conversation, you will be able to find me. On and off you might be able to catch me at the above address.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

IS:srr

Leo Szilard

Enclosure

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**PERSONAL**

To Mr. Lewis Rosenstiel Date July 28, 1955

Address Schenley Industries, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

~~Seems impossible to contact you. Four letter word stop. Am pursuing a very exciting line of work. Stop Am so sure of success that I want to do experiments myself. Stop It has an obvious bearing on management of disease in which you are interested. Stop. But you may think of good reasons why it may not be applicable to patient in question. Stop. Importance far exceeds management of any particular disease. Stop Wish you would call me at your convenience at Sheraton Park Hotel, Wash., D.C. Stop Another four letter word. Kind regards. Leo Szilard~~

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Leo Szilard

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**PERSONAL**  
 To Mr. Lewis Rosenstiel Date July 29, 1955  
 Address Schenley Industries, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Impossible to contact you four letter word Stop After conversation with you have been following a line of thought on management of incurable diseases Stop Some very exciting experiments possible on dogs and I am so sure of success that I want to do the experiments myself, expecting results within one year Stop Bearing on disease in which you are interested will be obvious to you but there may be good reasons why method should not repeat not be applied to patient in question Stop Wish you would call me at your convenience at Sheraton

SENDER'S NAME AND PERMANENT ADDRESS  
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To Page 2 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address Park Hotel, Washington, D. C. Stop Might leave for Europe early next week Stop Another four letter word Stop Kind regards  
Leo Szilard

LEWIS S. ROSENSTIEL  
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING  
350 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

August 22, 1955

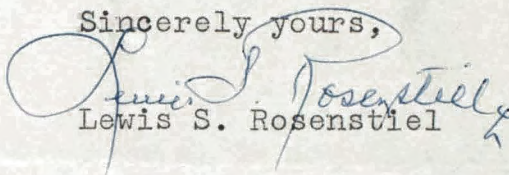
Dr. Leo Szilard  
International Latex Company  
350 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Would it be possible for you to meet with me on Friday, August 26, at my farm in Greenwich, Connecticut? If this does not inconvenience you too much I would be very appreciative.

I am, With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
Lewis S. Rosenstiel



December 29, 1955  
University of Chicago  
The Quadrangle Club  
1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois

Mr. Lewis Rosenstiel  
5 East 80th Street  
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Rosenstiel:

I owe both you and Louise an explanation and perhaps even an apology. I can say now why I was not able to present to you a satisfactory proposal during our "negotiations," and it is sort of tragic that at long last, when I am in a position to do so, it may be too late. Yet there is a lesson to be learned here and perhaps it is not altogether a waste of your time to read what I have to say.

True enough, I was a little slow to recognize that we ought to think in terms of a research unit, within an existing institution, rather than an independent research laboratory, but this much I knew by the middle of October. I was, however, still greatly troubled by a major difficulty.

We had to find an area of basic biological research that would attract the keenest minds and also would have a direct bearing on the problem of malignant growth and the blood diseases. In the past ten years, the keenest minds have moved into the field of micro biology, and unfortunately there is a rather wide gap between the phenomenon of cell proliferation and invasiveness, which is at the root of malignancy and the problems of micro biology. I did not quite see how to overcome this gap.

In the meantime, there has been, however, a major break-through in the art of studying the proliferation of human tissue cells under controlled conditions "in the test tube." There is still almost nothing published and what I know I learned from manuscripts which were made available to me. We have now, at long last, available the tools for a basic study of cell proliferation and invasiveness of human tumor cells and also normal human cells. I have before me two photographs, each showing a colony of human cancer cells, cultured in a glass dish, one grown in conditions which show both proliferation and invasiveness, the other grown in conditions where proliferation is undiminished, but invasiveness is suppressed.

It may be a long haul from this observation to the cure of malignant tumors and blood diseases. But here, at last, is an area of basic research that has a direct bearing on the problem of malignancy and that will

Mr. Lewis Rosenstiel, Page Two

December 29, 1955

attract the same imaginative minds who had been hitherto attracted by micro biology. The very same methods which were used to study the growth of microbes in the test tube have now become applicable to the study of the growth of tissue cells.

When this became clear to me in December, I knew at once what kind of research unit we needed; what kind of institutions would welcome such a research unit; what kind of staff one would want and what kind of setting it would take to attract the kind of minds that were needed.

At this point, I telephoned Louise, who told me that you were away and also that you may have made a commitment of the Foundation Funds, which were readily available.

This is a good opportunity to thank you for the confidence which you showed me when you first approached me in this matter, and to say that I deeply regret that I was not able at that time to come up with a clear proposal that made sense.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

LS:if

Leo Szilard

*note*

Mr. Lewis S. Rosenstiel  
The Sherry-Netherland Hotel  
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Rosenstiel:

This note is about things sweeter than atomic bombs.

I asked Jacques Leban the other day why Schenley does not go into the market of soft drinks where there seems to be much room for improvement of quality, and he told me of the high price of sugar which keeps the profit low.

These days, however, people drink cocoa-cola for refreshment rather than nourishment and with very good new sugar substitutes available, one might think that the public would welcome drinks sweetened with them, in which the sugar content is cut down to perhaps one-third of the traditional amount.

Food and Drugs might be difficult about this at first, but not for long, since there is no denying the fact that Americans today die from being overweight rather than from being undernourished. You could combine both virtue and necessity and cater to "those who do not have to put on weight."

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

WV  
cc: Jacques Leban