

August 18, 1945

The Editor of Science

Leo Szilard

Quadrangle Club
1155 East 57 Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a letter to the Editor which you might be willing to publish in Science. This document is not yet free for publication, but it might be released on or about August 25, and I would advise you by sending you a wire on that date if there is no objection on the part of the White House which has been advised of the intended publication.

In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you would wire me advising me whether or not you intend to accept the enclosed "letter" for publication. Would you also be good enough to advise at the same time if it is possible for you to let us have reprints of the letter if it is published?

Very truly yours,

Leo Szilard

Enc.

*The Editors of Science
Science Magazine
1215 Fifth Avenue
New York 29, New York*

The Quadrangle Club
1155 East 57 Street
Chicago, Illinois
August 24, 1945

The Editor of Science

Dear Sir:

One day after the first atomic bomb was detonated in New Mexico, the following petition was circulated among scientists working in this field at the University of Chicago:

"July 17, 1945. A Petition to the President of the United States. // Discoveries of which the people of the United States are not aware may affect the welfare of this nation in the near future. The liberation of atomic power which has been achieved places atomic bombs in the hands of the Army. It places in your hands, as Commander-in-Chief, the fateful decision whether or not to sanction the use of such bombs in the present phase of the war against Japan. //

"We, the undersigned scientists, have been working in the field of atomic power. Until recently we have had to fear that the United States might be attacked by atomic bombs during this war and that her only defense might lie in a counterattack by the same means. Today, with the defeat of Germany, this danger is averted and we feel impelled to say what follows:

"The war has to be brought speedily to a successful conclusion and attacks by atomic bombs may very well be an effective method of warfare. We feel, however, that such attacks on Japan could not be justified, at least not unless the terms which will be imposed after the war on Japan were made public in detail and Japan were given an opportunity to surrender.

"If such public announcement gave assurance to the Japanese that they could look forward to a life devoted to peaceful pursuits in their homeland and if Japan still refused to surrender our nation might then, in certain circumstances, find itself forced to resort to the use of atomic bombs. Such a step, however, ought not to be made at any time without seriously considering the moral responsibilities which are involved.

"The development of atomic power will provide the nations with new means of destruction. The atomic bombs at our disposal represent only the first step in this direction and there is almost no limit to the destructive power which will become available in the course of their future development. Thus a nation which sets the precedent of using these newly liberated forces of nature for purposes of destruction may have to bear the responsibility of opening the door to an era of devastation on an unimaginable scale.

August 24, 1945

"If after this war a situation is allowed to develop in the world which permits rival powers to be in uncontrolled possession of these new means of destruction, the cities of the United States as well as the cities of other nations will be in continuous danger of sudden annihilation. All the resources of the United States, moral and material, may have to be mobilized to prevent the advent of such a world situation. Its prevention is at present the solemn responsibility of the United States — singled out by virtue of her lead in the field of atomic power.

"The added material strength which this lead gives to the United States brings with it the obligation of restraint and if we were to violate this obligation our moral position would be weakened in the eyes of the world and in our own eyes. It would then be more difficult for us to live up to our responsibility of bringing the unloosened forces of destruction under control.

"In view of the foregoing, we, the undersigned, respectfully petition; first, that you exercise your power as Commander-in-Chief, to rule that the United States shall not resort to the use of atomic bombs in this war unless the terms which will be imposed upon Japan have been made public in detail and Japan, knowing these terms, has refused to surrender; second, that in such an event the question whether or not to use atomic bombs be decided by you in the light of the considerations presented in this petition as well as all the other moral responsibilities which are involved."

This petition was signed by sixty-seven scientists and sent to the President via the War Department on July 24, 1945. Security regulations do not permit disclosing the names of those who signed it. Some of them are permanently associated with the University of Chicago while others, coming from all parts of the United States, are at Chicago on a temporary basis only. It was felt that your readers might be interested in knowing something about the attitude of at least a substantial minority of scientists engaged at present in this work at one of the atomic power projects.

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Leo Szilard

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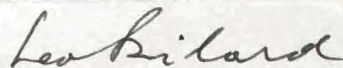
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Very truly yours,



Leo Szilard

SCIENCE
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

1215 Fifth Avenue
New York 29, N. Y.
September 1, 1945

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Your letter of August 18 and telegram of August 25 were received in the absence of Mr. Cattell. They will be brought to his attention on his return.

Sincerely yours,

A. C. Collison

Secretary

Dr. Leo Szilard
The University of Chicago
Quadrangle Club
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois

SCIENCE
EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT


1215 Fifth Avenue
New York 29, N. Y.
September 4, 1945

Dear Dr. Szilard:

In reply to your letter of August 21 in accordance with your request, I enclose the statement in regard to the petition circulated among scientists at the University of Chicago to be sent to the president of the United States.

There is a matter of policy involved which will have to be taken up with the Policy Committee and the Executive Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, but it is not my wish to take it up until such time as a communication is available.

Sincerely yours,


Jaques Cattell
Editor

Dr. Leo Szilard
The University of Chicago
Quadrangle Club
1155 East 57th Street
Chicago, Illinois

JC:R
Enclosure

*American Association
for the Advancement of Science*

1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 5, D. C.

SCIENCE

EDITORIAL OFFICES

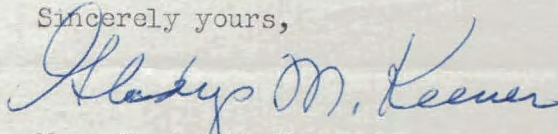
November 9, 1950

Dr. Leo Szilard
The University of Chicago
Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I think you have not received a reply to your letter of October 16 in which you ask for the publication of the article by you and Dr. Novick on "Description of the Chemostat" before the publication of the article sent us at about the same time on "Virus Strains of Identical Phenotype but Different Genotype". This is just to let you know that we shall be glad to comply with your wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Gladys M. Keener
Executive Editor

GMK/ej

SCIENCE and THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS

Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics

6200 Drexel Avenue

March 20, 1950

Science Magazine
Circulation Department
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please send me three copies of the February
17, 1950 issue of Science.

I enclose \$1.00 to cover the cost of these
three copies and mailing expenses.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

sds ✓

October 14, 1950

Howard A. Meyerhoff
Administrative Secretary
American Association for the Advancement of Science
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington 5, D.C.

Dear Mr. Meyerhoff:

I am writing to you in reply to your letter addressed to Dr. Novick of October 4, relating to the paper "Virus Strains which are of Identical Phenotype but Different Genotype," by A. Novick and Leo Szilard.

Please disregard the marking "rough draft - not for release" and consider the draft as ready for release and publication in Science.

Acting on the kind suggestion contained in your letter, we also wish to request that the words "which are" be deleted from the title.

We would appreciate if proofs were sent to us at the above address, and we would like to have 500 reprints which should be billed to the Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics.

Sincerely yours,



Leo Szilard

SCIENCE

the NEWSWEEKLY
for scientists

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE



1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 5, D. C. • EXecutive 6060

The SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY

the LITERARY magazine of science

September 30, 1952

Dr. Leo Szilard
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

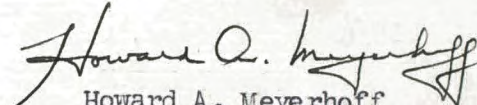
Dear Dr. Szilard:

I trust I am correct in my assumption that it was you who telephoned me from New York in connection with the paper by Benjamin Sieve on "Antifertility Factor." Although scientific caution seems to have got the better of the people who became familiar with his work, I do have three unqualified recommendations that it be published, and we propose to do so in the October 10 issue of Science. I suppose there will be repercussions; but so long as the work is thoroughly sound, and the author's reputation is equally good, I feel we would be remiss if we displayed a lack of courage to handle new material in this field.

I am turning to you now on a less controversial manuscript, partly because the author makes reference to an article you published in Science in 1950. However, I have every reason to believe that the paper lies within your field of interest, hence I am turning to you to ask whether, in your opinion, it merits acceptance for publication in Science.

With my thanks for your help, I am

Sincerely yours,


Howard A. Meyerhoff
Chairman, Editorial Board

HAM/yk
Encl:

November 14, 1952

Dr. Howard A. Meyerhoff
Chairman, Editorial Board
Science
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Dr. Meyerhoff,

Enclosed you will find the paper by Browning and Lockingen which you sent me for rendering an opinion with your letter of Sept. 30. I have discussed this paper with Dr. Novick and we both feel that its importance is not sufficient to merit publication in Science. The only novel feature of the paper is a pump. Whether this pump constitutes an improvement over present methods described in the last volume of the Cold Spring Harbor Symposia, I do not know. But however that may be, I would suggest that if the authors actually use the method they describe in experiments that yield publishable results, then together with such results they may publish a description of their apparatus.

It might be that Dr. Novick and I set our standards too high in trying to determine what paper merits publication in Science and perhaps for fairness to the authors you would do well to send their paper on to someone else for a second opinion.

Wish best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

Enclosure

LS/llt