

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL



MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL



BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

Massachusetts General Hospital
Fruit Street, Boston 14

May 20, 1953

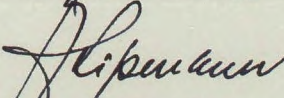
Dr. Leo Szilard
Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

In spite of your hesitation in making a definite commitment for August, I have put you down on the program. I realize that it is tentative but am leaving it now that way and hope that you eventually will find it possible to be in San Francisco. I am sure that your presence would be a great asset to the symposium.

With many good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,


Fritz Lipmann

FL:jl

January 24, 1957

Dr. Fritz Lipmann
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital
Biochemical Research Laboratory
Fruit Street
Boston 14, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Lipmann:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of January 21st.

Since I had written you, I had some conversations with Harrison Brown and Jonas Salk, touching on some of the issues which you have raised in your letter. As you say, before we can go very much further there ought to be a planning conference of potential Affiliate Members in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. Since the number of Affiliate Members may not exceed twelve, such a conference will necessarily be small in size. Mr. Canfield has been aware from the very beginning of the need of holding such a conference at an early date, and he may attempt to set a date when the responses to the original letters that were sent out are in.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard



BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

Massachusetts General Hospital
Fruit Street, Boston 14

April 24, 1957

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

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Thank you for the copy with the information on your project. I hoped to see you at the Federation Meeting but you seemed not to have been there. I have the feeling that the Ford Foundation should really take a hand in this and could be persuaded to do so on a larger scale if only the right approach would be made. Let me know how things are going and if anything further develops.

With best regards,

Yours,



Fritz Lipmann

FL:jl



BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

Massachusetts General Hospital
Fruit Street, Boston 14

January 21, 1957

Dr. Leo Szilard
The Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Your letter and the two memoranda started me to try to clarify for myself the background of a proposal such as you and Dr. Doering made: you feel that there is a pressing need for understanding and redressing the imbalances in the life on this earth which are created by the scientific revolution, such as overpopulation, the upwards displacement of average age, also effects of mass communication and psychological methodology which seem to be peripherally recognized in your memorandum, although the emphasis is on other fields. I am just trying to sort out a little. I think that in the appendix there may be a certain randomness of choosing problems but an initial arbitrariness in this respect might have to be counted in as unavoidable. I do agree that there is need for realizing the existence of quite novel problems and for approaching them as unabashedly as possible. I foresee that one will meet difficulties in trying to reconcile the application of results obtained in this way with what we call the democratic way of life. I think there exists a problem which we should recognize right from the beginning- it needs analysis and amplification and is to some extent a real and important part of our problem.

Granting now the need for this approach, the best manner of realizing it becomes the second problem. There is, I think, a genuine revulsion in the good scientific man against applied research - I suppose that creativeness and application do not mix well. There is a further serious problem in group research. But in this respect, individuals seem to differ. In the choice of personnel, this aspect probably has to be kept in mind. But still, this presents probably a big and rather substantial problem there. One might hope that the urgency of a true socialological "emergency" may have an effect similar to the urgency the national emergency had during the war; but will it? It would be almost necessary to attempt to create such an institute for fundamental applied biology in such an atmosphere of urgency.

After all this I suppose I need not tell you that I am rather interested in the project and would like to help as much as I may be able to, in its planning and possibly its execution. At the present stage, a planning conference of not too large a size (the number, I feel, should not exceed a dozen or maybe even fewer) in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, would be most desirable.

If you would care to come to Boston for a week end, it would be very nice and if you let me know, I can make all arrangements and we could try to talk some

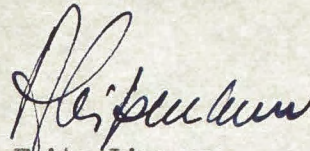
2. To Dr. Leo Szilard

January 21, 1957

more. A copy of this letter goes to Mr. Canfield and Dr. Doering whom I may have a chance to see toward the end of February when I will be in New Haven.

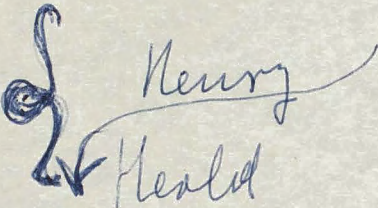
With many good wishes,

Yours,


Fritz Lipmann

FL:jl

cc: Mr. Canfield
Dr. Doering


Henry Heald

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Canfield

May 1, 1957

Dr. Fritz Lipmann
Harvard Medical School
Massachusetts General Hospital
Biochemical Research Laboratory
Fruit Street
Boston 14, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Lipmann:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of April 24th. I am about to leave town to go to a meeting in Gatlinburg, and then plan to stay for a while in the East. Perhaps there will be an opportunity to meet in the not too distant future.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

m

August 16, 1957

Mr. Walter Lippman
3525 Woodley Road, N.W.
Washington 16, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lippman:

I should greatly appreciate your reading
the attached note when your time permits and giving me
your general reaction at your convenience.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

m
Encl.

INDIAN HEAD
BERNARD, MAINE

P. O. SOUTHWEST HARBOR, MAINE

PHONE: SOUTHWEST HARBOR
CHESTNUT 4-3192

April 31

Dear Mr. Szilard,

I am up here in
the country, as you must therefore
pardon this illegible reply to your
memo of Aug 16.

That the project is
inherently desirable, I have no
doubt. I am concerned only to
question the role of the observers.
Speaking for myself, I have

great doubts - what with my
being a complete ignoramus
in these matters, what with the
confusing and obscure line between
secrets and public information. I
would need convincing that my own
participation would serve any useful
purpose.

I shall be glad to hear from
you at the end of September, and I would
be happy to hear from you after if
you happen to be in town.

Yours

W. S. Upson

Indian Head
Bernard, Maine

C
O
P
Y

August 31

Dear Mr. Szilard

I am up here in the country, so you must therefore forgive this illegible reply to your memo of Aug. 16.

That the project is undoubtedly desirable, I have no doubt. I am compelled only to question the role of the observers.

Speaking for myself, I have great doubts--what with my being a complete ignoramus in these matters, what with the confusing and obscure line between secret and public information. I would need convincing that my own participation would serve any useful purpose.

I shall be back in Washington at the end of September and I would be happy to meet with you if you happen to be in town.

Yours,

(Signed) "Walter Lippman"

September 23, 1957

Mr. Walter Lippman
3525 Woodley Road, N.W.
Washington 16, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lippman:

Many thanks for your kind letter of August 31st from Bernard, Maine. The answers to my inquiry are now gradually coming in. I am leaving for Europe in a few days and Dr. Morton Grodzins, Chairman of the Department of Political Science, will deal with these matters during my absence. You might hear from him or from me again on my return from Europe.

In November I might spend a few weeks in Washington, and if I do I hope that it will be possible for us to have a chat about these matters.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

Campfield

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE
NEW YORK 21, N.Y.

October 11, 1957

Dr. Leo Szilard
The Enrico Fermi Institute
for Nuclear Studies
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Your plan to get substantial support from the other side and at the same time apply the skills and experience of our side seems unrealistic, nor do I think it desirable. I think the best chance to achieve something is here. Maybe you should assess more thoroughly the difficulties in setting up this type of Institute, even if the money were available, and I think, in part, one of the reasons for difficulties in finding the money is that at least some of the people may recognize this.

I think that a little more patience and, I dare to say, maybe some caution in stressing more the general problem of the population growth rather than focussing too sharply on birth control, might be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

Fritz Lipmann
Fritz Lipmann

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE

NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK

May 5, 1961

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It was a great honor to receive your letter thanking me, as a member of the Advisory Board on Science, for helping your cause during election time. I also was happy to be present on the occasion of your visit to the National Academy of Sciences, and you must have felt the genuine and proud response of the scientific community to your caring to address us handsomely.

Your election has caused an upsurge of hope, here and everywhere. We have enjoyed the spirit and drive that has replaced the dreariness of the last eight years. It is only during the last few weeks, as you must surely be aware, that quite a few of us have started to wonder what you are driving at. Many feel it was, indeed, a most fiendish gift to you of the previous Administration to break with Cuba so shortly before you came in. Remembering the patience with which a similar situation in Mexico was handled not so long ago by a Democratic Administration, we hoped you would, in some manner, try to come to similar terms with Cuba. Quite a few of those who have supported you with great confidence would urge you to still consider a non-aggressive attitude toward the Cuban revolution.

This letter is written in anguish and with the hope that your intelligence and honesty will safely lead us out of the present dilemma.

With great confidence, I am,

Yours most sincerely,

Fritz Lipmann

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