

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
Associated Universities, Inc.
Upton, L.I., N.Y.
Cosmotron Department

July 2, 1957

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

Dear Professor Szilard:

On Sunday evening I talked with Mr. Kemeny for about an hour. The situation seems to have changed somewhat since you spoke with him and I expect he will write to you about this.

First I should say that Kemeny impressed me very highly as a prospective graduate student. I would judge from his remarks about his work in Budapest that his experience is comparable with that of a Chicago graduate student at the end of his third year. He has been doing research work for about a year. He seems a good deal more responsive than Chicago students of comparable experience and he knows a good deal more about elementary particles than the students I have met in Chicago. At least he knows their names, their distinctive features and some of the problems concerning these particles at present, although he is naturally somewhat behind the times in the problems he emphasizes. On the other hand, I suspect that his training in physics has been more formal and mathematical than one finds usually in the States. He complained, for example, that the Columbia courses were rather "old-fashioned", which I interpreted to mean that more emphasis was given there to solving realistic, practical problems rather than to elegant formalism and fancy mathematical tricks.

During his semester at Columbia he has already been partly supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, as well as by a scholarship at Columbia. Apparently the Rockefeller Foundation told him that they do not give support to physicists, but, since he was a special case, they offered him support on a very modest scale for the first few months to help him over his initial problems. However this suggests that there would be rather little hope of finding support for him at Chicago through the Rockefeller Foundation.

Finally, it turns out that he has taken a job with Westinghouse at Bloomfield, near New York, where he is a theoretician working together with a group doing pure research in solid state physics. He finds

that this field appears to offer a number of problems interesting to a theoretician. Also he appreciates the security of a satisfactory salary (\$500. per month) for this work. His desire to keep on in the field of elementary particles has correspondingly dwindled and he would like to continue his job at Westinghouse, whilst working part-time at N.Y. University for a Ph.D. He now feels that this is the most realistic and satisfactory course of action for him, rather than to struggle on as a graduate student on a rather limited fellowship for another two or three years. So Kemeny does not wish us to continue with the matter any further, unless he finds after some time that the solid state field is less attractive than it now appears to him. I think that this is all rather a pity but there seems very little that we can do to encourage him back to his original desire for elementary particle physics unless we have a very definite proposition to offer, which is far from being the case at present. I expect Mr. Kemeny will be writing to you very soon about his job with Westinghouse and his change of attitude. I am also writing now to Dr. Allison that he should not write to Rockefeller Foundation at present.

With very good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Dalitz

Cosmotron Department

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

Refer to Dr. Szilard

July 2.

Dear Dr Allison,

I talked with Mr Kemery on Sunday. He tells me that he has taken a job as theoretician to a solid state group at Westinghouse Corporation, so that we should take no further action on his behalf for the present. Also it turns out that he has already been supported partly by the Rockefeller Foundation during this last semester. However the Rockefeller Foundation told him that they do not normally give support to physicists and that he could not hope for any further support from them.

With very good wishes to all,

Yours sincerely

R. H. Dalitz

Cosmotron Department.

Pennings
Richard K. Anderson
BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

250

July 2.

Dear Professor Szilard,

On Sunday evening I talked with Mr Kemery for about an hour. The situation seems to have changed somewhat since you spoke with him and I expect he will write to you about this.

First I should say that Kemery impressed me ~~a~~ very highly as a prospective graduate student. I would judge from his remarks about his work in Budapest that his experience is comparable with that of a Chicago graduate student at the end of his third year. He has been doing research work for about a year. He seems a good deal more responsive than Chicago students of comparable experience and he knows a good deal more about elementary particles than the students I have met in Chicago. At least he knows their names, their distinctive features and some of the problems concerning these particles at present, although he is ~~a~~ naturally somewhat behind the times in the problems he emphasizes. On the other hand I suspect that his training in physics has been more formal and mathematical than one finds usually in the States. He complained for example that the Columbia courses were rather "old-fashioned", which I interpreted to mean that more emphasis was given there to solving realistic, practical problems rather than to elegant formalism and fancy mathematical tricks.

During his semester at Columbia he had ~~a~~ already been partly supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, as well as by a scholarship at Columbia. Apparently the Rockefeller Foundation told him that they do not give support to physicists, but, since he was a special case, they offered him support on a very modest scale for the first few months to help him over

his initial problems. However this suggests that there would be rather little hope of finding support for him at Chicago through the Rockefeller Foundation.

Finally, it ~~seems~~ ^{turns} out that he has taken a job with Westinghouse at Bloomfield, near New York, where he is theoretician working together with a group during pure research in solid state physics. He finds that this field appears to offer a number of problems interesting to a theoretician. Also he appreciates the security of a satisfactory salary (\$500 per month) for this work. His desire to keep on ~~in~~ the field of elementary particles has correspondingly dwindled and he would like to continue his job at Westinghouse, whilst working part-time at N.Y. University for a Ph.D. He now feels that this is the most realistic and satisfactory course of action for him, rather than to struggle on as a graduate student on a rather limited fellowship for another two or three years. So Kemery does not wish us to continue with the matter any further, unless he finds after some time that the solid state field is less attractive than it now appears to him. I think that this is all rather a pity but there seems very little that we can do to encourage him back to his original desire for elementary particle physics unless we have a ^{very} definite proposition to offer, ~~which~~ which is far from being the case at present.

I expect Mr Kemery will be writing to you very soon ~~to~~ about his job with Westinghouse and his change of attitude. I am also writing now to Dr Allison that he should not write to Rockefeller Foundation at present.

With very good wishes

Yours sincerely

R. H. Dalitz

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
49 West 49th Street
New York City 20

Office of the Secretary

July 9, 1957

Dear Professor Dalitz;

Your letter of June 26th to Dr. Pomerat has been referred to me for reply since he is at the present time out of the country.

I had expected perhaps to talk with you on the telephone last week, during your stay at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. However, since I did not hear from you I am writing now to say that there appears to be no way in which The Rockefeller Foundation could be of further assistance to Mr. Kemeny. The funds for the Special Hungarian Program, which was in effect during the past six months, have now been exhausted and neither by field nor by training does Mr. Kemeny qualify for fellowship aid under the Foundation's regular program activities.

I shall hold your letter for Dr. Pomerat's return at the end of this month, and if he has any suggestions for Mr. Kemeny I feel sure he will write you promptly.

Sincerely yours,

Janet M. Paine
Assistant Secretary

Professor R. H. Dalitz
The Enrico Fermi Institute
for Nuclear Studies
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

General

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

July 16.

Dear Dr. Szilard,

I enclose the letter which I had from the Rockefeller Foundation: - I had delayed in writing Dr. Pomerat after seeing Kemev as I was hoping to hear your reaction to my letter. Their letter agreed exactly with what Kemev himself had been told by them. So I am glad to hear that your enquiries have led to a more promising response.

As I said in my letter, I think Kemev would be good material as a graduate student. On the other hand I did not think him as advanced and experienced as I had expected. For this reason it may not be easy to obtain a fellowship for him on the scale you envisage (this would put him in a very much better position than other students of comparable standing at Chicago) but this is no reason for not trying. I felt strongly inclined to urge him to keep in the academic field at all costs, but after all this is a question of his own desire and his desire for this seemed strongly blunted after the past six months. For him, to take such a fellowship at Chicago would seem very much in the nature of a gamble, but I do not see that he could lose very much even if it did not come off in the end, since an industrial position at least comparable with what he has at present should

always be available if present conditions are any indication.

I shall be interested to hear how your enquiries develop.

With good wishes

Yours sincerely

R. H. Daulton

Pen file

BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES, INC.

UPTON, L. I., N. Y.

TEL. YAPHANK 4-6262

REFER:

August 5, 1957

Dear Dr. Szilard,

Early last week I had a call from Dr. Anderson of the Rockefeller Foundation concerning Mr. Kemeny. Possibly you have also heard from him?

Dr. Anderson said that he thought the Rockefeller Foundation would be willing to support Kemeny for one year. Further support by the Foundation beyond this period was not excluded but he indicated their feeling that, since Kemeny's work would lie so far outside their normal program, other possibilities for his support should be explored after the first year. Dr. Anderson said that the Foundation would go ahead with arrangements for Kemeny's first year on hearing from me.

So far I have heard nothing from Kemeny and I was wondering whether he had written you as to his intentions. There is certainly no urgency about the matter, but I think we should know his attitude to this proposal by October at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Dalitz

R. H. Dalitz

August 7, 1957

Dr. R. H. Dalitz
Brookhaven National Laboratory
Upton, Long Island, New York

Dear Dr. Dalitz:

Many thanks for your letter of August 5th. I have transmitted the enclosure to Mrs. Mann.

I have not heard from Kemeny at all. Why don't you call him up and tell him the reaction of the Rockefeller Foundation? This it seems now is entirely up to you and him. I am not at all certain that he ought to take a one-year arrangement. He may need three years to show whether he is productive. If Kemeny would want to come to Chicago on a three-year arrangement, perhaps it would be wisest to go back to the Rockefeller Foundation and ask them for a three-year arrangement. One would then have to take the risk, which is quite great, that the deal would fall through, and would have to explain to them quite frankly that we prefer no deal to a deal which does not provide for a psychologically favorable setting.

Yours sincerely,

Leo Szilard