

File

April 15, 1957

Dr. William Doering
Department of Chemistry
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Bill,

Here is a letter on another subject. A friend of mine, K. H. Hausser, from the Max Planck Institute in Heidelberg (Richard Kuhn's department) is spending a year in this country, mainly at the University of Chicago. He will be east during the second half of May and would like to visit Yale also. He could give a talk at Yale on the 20, 21, 22, or 23 of May at your convenience on " π complexes between organic free radicals." It would be nice if you could fit in such a talk, and even nicer if you could pay an honorarium of say \$50. Since I am away so often from Chicago, it would be best for you to write to Dr. Hausser directly. His address is: 5490 Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago 15, Illinois.

Hausser's main interest is in electronic spectra and para-magnetic and nuclear resonance, and it is because of this interest that he would like to visit your department.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Campbell

STERLING CHEMISTRY LABORATORY
225 PROSPECT STREET

April 17th, 1957

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

Dear Leo:

Many thanks for your two letters. We would be very pleased to have Hausser visit Yale and I have set the appropriate wheels in motion.

My talk with Cousins was very fruitful. We are now trying to arrange the details of the trip to Texas. He mentioned the same persons to me that he had discussed with you. He felt rather strongly that we should be prepared to start the venture with one million dollars or less. I spent some time trying to dissuade him of this idea, but with how much success I do not know.

I got the impression that he had only a superficial acquaintance with the details of the memorandum but was quite willing to assume that anything which bore your name would be O.K. At the moment it does not seem to me to make much difference whether Cousins is acquainted with and convinced of the details of the plan. When you are in New York again, perhaps you should have another talk with him.

If all goes well, I will be back from Texas the 3rd or 4th of May and perhaps then the three of us could have lunch together.

Charles Lindbergh is apparently unwilling even to listen to the proposal. He leads an isolated life and protects himself from invasion from the outer world with maniacal finality.

I shall keep you informed of my progress.

Yours sincerely,

Bill

William Doering

WD:esh

Carpfield

April 19, 1957

Dr. William Doering
Department of Chemistry
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your letter. I quite agree with you that it is impossible to get started on one million dollars, and I believe that, if we have to revise the fifteen million dollar figure which we quoted, we would have to revise it upward rather than downward. I am not worried about Norman, however, since I believe that his sketchy understanding of the problem will not diminish his willingness and ability to help.

In view of your forthcoming trip, it seems to me that it would be important for you to meet Hilary Koprowski, who is taking over the directorship of the Wistar Institute early in May. The Institute is located on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh. Along with Harrison Brown, I believe we may look upon him as very much interested and as a potential director for the research institute. In saying so, I am of course assuming that it is possible for us to create an organization that is sufficiently well endowed to attract Koprowski away from his present position. His main field of interest is the study of animal viruses and tissue transplantation, and he has shown very good taste in picking his collaborators. Right now he would be my first choice for Director if we could get him. Koprowski has read our memoranda, and my suggestion is to try to set up a date with him before you leave for the West, and set the date for as early as possible. Up to the first of May you will be able to reach him at Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, New York (Pearl River 5-5000) or at his home at 267 Linden Avenue, Englewood, New Jersey (Lowell 8-3111). If you call this number from New York City, you first dial 11, and when the tone changes, dial LO 8-3111.

On your trip west you may run into rumors that a pharmaceutical company has gotten the "pill" and is deliberating what to do with it. This information was given to me by Ray Witt-coff, a mutual friend of Norman and me, who lives in St. Louis, Missouri. He was told this by George Coleman of the Mercantile Trust Company in St. Louis. Coleman was secretive about this and was not willing to say which company had the "pill". He somehow conveyed the impression that the company did not think that they could obtain patent protection and felt that if they marketed the "pill" they might get a black eye without being able to cash in on the "pill" in a monopolistic fashion.

At some earlier time I was told that a broker trying to sell Sears stock had hinted that Sears will get the "pill" which Pincus is developing.

Whether there is any connection between these two pieces of information, I do not know. If you see Tom Slick, you will find that he has some connection with Pincus or some information about the Pincus "pill".

As you remember, Mr. Canfield told us that Abrahms also told him about the "pill" and he also was very secretive about it.

At some point or other, this "pill" - mythical or real - might block your efforts. As far as I am concerned, nothing better could happen to us than if the rumor were well founded. If we can get our institute, we could then start in right away with the item which is second in importance, and in addition solve the mysteries of life, including the problem of aging (about which I am going to do something ^{THINKING} within the next ten days in preparation for a conference to be held at Gatlinburg on the 2nd and 3rd of May).

We have been looking for some time for a co-conspirator taken from the medical field and located in the East. I think that if you meet Koprowski you will find that he is our man.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

m

cc: Mr. Cass Canfield

P.T.O.

P.S. I believe it would be very important for the success of your trip to Texas to be able to indicate who the persons are of whom we think as a possible Director. This is my main reason for wanting you to meet Koprowski prior to your trip, if at all possible.

Canfield

May 1, 1957

Dr. William Doering
Department of Chemistry
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Doering,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which Al Weinberg, Director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, wrote to Cass Canfield. I am having it sent to you in the hope that you might be able to make use of it in Texas. Are you going?

I am going to Gatlinburg today but I will be back in Chicago within three days. I am postponing my trip east but will go there prior to May 15th.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

m
Encl.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

STERLING CHEMISTRY LABORATORY
225 PROSPECT STREET

May 7th, 1957

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

Dear Leo:

The Texas trip has been postponed because of rain and difficulties which Norman Cousins had encountered in completing arrangements by May 2nd.

I am now negotiating directly with a Jas. Wm. Rogers in Dallas. He is described by Cousins as an intelligent man who is just wealthy enough to be able to entertain significantly wealthy men in his home. I hope to complete arrangements with him within the next couple of weeks.

Several days ago I had lunch with Wm. Harding Jackson who is a partner of Jock Whitney's. Cass had spoken to him and left him somewhat lukewarm. Jackson had many reservations about the practicability of the plan but I think I removed a number of these and fired him with a certain enthusiasm in the project. He is retired, appears to have a large number of very highly placed connections and could do a marvelous job for us if he so chose.

I have sent him a copy of the memorandum and am awaiting a letter from him.

Please let me know when you come East. Lectures stop here the 17th of May and after that I shall have considerably more time to devote to our conspiracy.

Yours sincerely,

Bill

William Doering

WD:esh

Handwritten notes in a cursive script, possibly a shorthand or a specific dialect. The text is arranged in several lines, with some characters resembling letters and numbers. The notes are written in blue ink on aged, yellowish paper.

Handwritten notes in a cursive script, possibly a shorthand or a specific dialect. The text is arranged in several lines, with some characters resembling letters and numbers. The notes are written in blue ink on aged, yellowish paper.

May 13, 1957

Dr. William Doering
Sterling Chemistry Laboratory
225 Prospect Street
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Bill,

Many thanks for your letter of May 7th.
I expect to be east by May 25th at the latest, but the
date is not yet settled. I shall let you know as soon
as my schedule is fixed. Right now I am unusually busy,
and with pleasant things for a change.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

May 22nd, 1957

Mr. John William Rogers
Cornell Oil Company
4616 Greenville Avenue
Dallas 6, TEXAS

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Your letter about the new institutes was much appreciated. I have thought a good deal about your careful remarks and would like to ask a favor of you.

On other business I shall be in Houston Monday through Thursday, June 10th through 13th. It would be quite convenient for me to return to New York by way of Dallas. If it would not put you out, I would like very much to talk to you and Mrs. DeGolyer on Friday, June 14th. This could be either in the afternoon or in the evening. I shall in any event not plan to leave Dallas until Saturday. I think that you could help me more easily this way than through extended correspondence back and forth.

If you feel that I should speak to anyone else during this short visit, I should of course be pleased. However, I have taken your warning about the importance of laying careful plans seriously to heart.

I do hope that this suggestion will meet with your approval and that I shall have the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance.

Very sincerely yours,

William Doering

WD:esh

cc: Norman Cousins
Leo Szilard
Cass Canfield

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Campbell

STERLING CHEMISTRY LABORATORY
225 PROSPECT STREET

June 5th, 1957

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

Dear Leo:

During the pleasant afternoon that I spent with Cass Canfield on Sunday a number of points were discussed. More and more it looks to me as if it would be greatly to our advantage if William H. Jackson would become one of the prime movers. I have a letter from him expressing interest. He wants to see Cass again and such a meeting will be arranged. If Jackson would like to meet with the three of us, I think we should try quite diligently to arrange such a meeting.

At the moment I see no reason to encourage a number of persons who have been invited to serve as affiliated members. I have specific reference to Al Weinberg. I still feel strongly that we are weakest in the medical and biological areas.

One thing we will have to be ready to name is a prospective director of the institutes. Koprowski seems like an excellent man and presumably you have gone as far with him as you can in the absence of anything concrete to offer. I think it would be a good idea for us to talk more seriously to Harrison Brown about his taking over the directorship. If we had these two men as reasonable possibilities, our talking position would be much stronger. Would you be willing to track Harry Brown down to see if your paths could not be made to cross conveniently in the near future? When I spoke to Harry a couple of months ago at lunch, he certainly did not seem strongly opposed to considering such a move.

I am leaving for Texas June 8th and will be in Houston through Thursday. Cass is sending Tom Slick a copy of the memorandum and will suggest that I visit him in San Antonio on Thursday. I hope this works out. On Friday I shall go to Dallas to chat with John William Rogers about approaching people in Texas. Unfortunately, I will not be able to see Mrs. deGolyer - she is on her way to Cape Cod. When I get back I shall ask Norman Cousins whether we should not try to talk to her there.

That's all the news I have for the moment. I hope that we can get together in the latter part of June or during July before you go to Europe.

Sincerely,

William Doering
William Doering

per P.S.T.

WD:esh

June 24th, 1957

Mr. W. K. Woodward, Jr.
1608 Kirby Bldg.
1509 Main Street
Dallas, TEXAS

Dear Mr. Woodward:

It was a very great pleasure for me to have had the opportunity of talking to you in Dallas last week. By now, Cass Canfield, Director of Harper's Publishing Company, will have sent you a copy of the memorandum in which Szilard and I have described why we think there is a need for a new institute, staffed by a small number of truly outstanding scientists who are interested in larger problems of the world, in addition to their own scientific work.

You seemed quite pessimistic about the possibility that such an institute might be associated with a university, such as the University of Texas. It seems to me that if it were possible for us to raise money for these institutes and if it were possible to attract the kind of men that we have in mind, the reputation of a university would be materially enhanced by having the institutes and its staff located in or near the university, and perhaps loosely associated.

It has seemed to me that this idea might be an attractive one and if you do have any further thought about it, I would be very pleased to hear them.

Once again please accept my deep thanks for the time which you spent with me.

Yours sincerely,

William Doering,
Whitehead Professor of Organic Chemistry

WD:esh

cc: Cass Canfield
Leo Szilard

Canfield

June 24th, 1957

Mr. Cass Canfield
Harper & Brothers
49 East 33rd Street
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Cass:

As a result of the correspondence which you had with Tom Slick, Bennett Bldg., San Antonio 5, Texas, I was able to see him in Houston on Wednesday, June 12th.

It was a somewhat confused meeting because we were obliged to sandwich our conversation between Slick's effort to re-establish contact with numerous female friends following his return from India. He was distinctly unenthusiastic. As trustee of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio and of the Worcester Institute for Biological Research in Massachusetts, he knew Pincus quite well. In fact, Pincus too is director of Research of the Worcester Institute and is a trustee of the Southwest Institute.

Slick felt very pessimistic about starting a new institute when it seemed to him that the two mentioned above offered precisely the same opportunity as the one we had projected. He said that any scientist at either Worcester or Southwest would be free to work on any fundamental or applied problem of his choice provided he could raise money for it. In response to the argument that this scarcely gave a scientist freedom, he spent some time telling me how difficult it was to raise money for both Southwest and Worcester. According to Slick, neither institute was able to raise more than \$ 50,000. a year from private individuals. In view of the fact that Slick was convinced that Tom Jacobson and Ralph Dorfman, organic chemist and biochemist at Worcester respectively, are truly outstanding scientists, it was not possible for me to pursue the obvious argument that both Worcester and Southwest would differ fundamentally from the institutes we have in mind in the quality of staff and the scientific standing of its affiliated members.

I personally do not think it is fruitful to pursue the matter further with Tom Slick.

My meeting with John William Rogers, whom Norman Cousins had arranged for me to see, was admittedly a preliminary one. I wanted to find out what his personal attitude was before playing the cards which he might be able to deal. According to Cousins, these cards would be named De Golyer, Hunt, Harold Volk, Neil Mallon, and perhaps others whom Rogers would suggest. From the pleasant luncheon which I had with Rogers, I conclude that he personally is not interested in the large fields of public health which concern us and specifically is not interested in establishing the two institutes. I think he will do whatever Norman Cousins or I ask in the way of arranging for interviews with appropriate persons. It was he who made it possible for me to see Dudley Woodward and who made contact with James Clark, 1201 Main Street, Dallas, Texas, the person who

Continued to: Mr. Cass Canfield

is financial advisor of the Murchison family. For what it is worth, Rogers thought that we should start in a small way by associating with some small already existing foundation, and would then have a concrete basis on which to expand. He thought that we should get funds for the small initial effort from some of the thousands of presently functioning foundations. He was opposed to trying to get money from wealthy individuals in Texas. He complained long and bitterly, as the new big wealthy are wont to do, of the tremendous number of requests which are addressed to them for money. We finally did strike a common note in the suggestion that the institutes be located in the shade of one of the Texas Universities. He agreed with me that the prestige value would be enormous and that this facet might make it possible to raise the money in Texas.

I think that when the three of us get together, possibly in the company of Norman Cousins, we should go over the whole Texas matter further.

Perhaps I should mention that I was unable to see Mrs. De Golyer, whom Norman Cousins wanted me very much to see, because she was already on vacation on Cape Cod.

Yours sincerely,

William Doering

WD:esh

cc:Leo Szilard

Campbell

July 2, 1957

Dr. William Doering
Department of Chemistry
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Bill,

A few days ago I sent you a copy of a letter which I wrote to Cass on June 26th. I am about to leave for Nova Scotia now and want to write you just a few lines to say the following:

The same consideration which makes it important for us to enlist the support of Jim Brownley holds also for Frank Abrahams. Should you and Cass have a heart-to-heart talk with Abrahams or Brownley in the near future, it would be necessary to make it clear somehow that the actual question of the Research Institute itself we are going to discuss with Heald, but as far as policy is concerned we would like to know whether the Board's policy will make it possible for Heald to deal with us. Clearly we must be careful not to go around Heald, and just how this should be handled you ought to discuss with Cass.

If the Ford Foundation fails, another possibility occurred to me although it is somewhat of a desperate solution: Perhaps you and Cass ought to talk to Caryl P. Haskins, who succeeded Vannevar Bush as President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Nothing much can be done with the existing research institutes of the Carnegie Institution but perhaps Haskins might be interested in setting up a new institute within the Carnegie Institution along the lines which we have proposed, and perhaps the Carnegie Corporation could be prevailed upon to help out with funds. Haskins is rather a nice and genteel person, and he is interested in biology, but I have no way of knowing whether or not he would catch fire.

Another conceivable possibility would be to set up something in Germany under the auspices of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft -- perhaps in the neighborhood of Munich. This is the only part of Germany into which one might be able to draw a substantial number of Americans -- if it is at all possible to draw Americans into Germany.

Werner Heisenberg is setting up a Max-Planck-Institute for Physics in the neighborhood of Munich, and for this and for other reasons he would be the proper man with whom to discuss this matter. I expect to see him at the meeting of the German Physical Society toward the end of September in Heidelberg. In the meantime if you and Cass think that we should raise the issue with Heisenberg, Cass could write to him now and tell him something about the difficulties which we are encountering in obtaining funds for such a Research Institute in America, and say that I plan to attend the Heidelberg meeting and will talk to him about this matter on that occasion.

There should be no difficulty in finding the money for such an institute through the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft. The main trouble is that I am far more confident of our ability to start ^{ff} such an institute in Cambridge, England than even in the most desirable part of Germany except, of course, if we want to work with Germans alone. If we are willing to do this, then there ought to be no difficulty because today young Germans who are interested in modern biology have a tendency to emigrate for lack of set-ups congenial to modern biologists in Germany.

With kind regards,

Yours,



Leo Szilard

m

cc: Mr. Cass Canfield

Washington, D. C.
March 3, 1962

Professor William Doering
Department of Chemistry
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Doering:

The attached letter is meant for you and those others whose names are listed in the memo "The Next Step". I should be very grateful to you for reading the attached letter and the enclosures, and for advising me as soon as possible whether you are willing to serve as an Associate.

I hope very much that you are willing to serve as a Fellow and that you are not going to disqualify yourself from serving on the Board of Directors of the Council.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington 6, D. C.
Telephone: HUdson 3-6000

Enclosures

P.S. I am enclosing the revised and final version of my speech, which will be printed in the April issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

LS

February 24, 1962

Professor William Doering
Department of Chemistry
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Doering:

Would you be good enough to read the attached ^{"Spreads"}pages and let me know whether you are sufficiently interested to be willing to be part of this operation.

I am enclosing some indication of the responses, and if you are interested I ^{will} can mail you a set of press clippings and photocopies of a sample of my mail.

Please let me know as soon as you can what you think about all this by writing to me at my Washington address given below.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington 6, D. C.
Telephone: HUDson 3-6000

Enclosure S

22 January, 1964

Professor W. Doering
Department of Chemistry
Yale University
Newhaven, Conn.

Dear Bill:

The enclosed letter of Frank Long relates to the manuscript which you have seen and which will appear in print in the Bulletin.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard