

Victor Rubin
7710 No. Ashland Avenue
Chicago 26, Illinois

March 9
1946

Dr. Leo Szilard
Metallurgical Laboratory
University of Chicago
Chicago 80, Illinois

Dear Dr. Szilard:

At your request I wrote Mr. Henry La Cossitt, the editor of Collier's, whether he was still interested in the article we had discussed and which I had outlined for him concerning postwar planning of our cities as a defense against atomic bombing.

In my letter to Mr. La Cossitt I wrote:

" Will you kindly send me a letter which I can show Dr. Leo Szilard, indicating that you are still interested in the article we discussed and which is referred to in my letters of Dec. 17 and 21 ? "

I received an immediate reply:

" Dear Mr. Rubin:

We are still interested in the article on cities and the atomic age and what we are going to do about urban communities in order to meet the threat.

Sincerely,

Henry La Cossitt "

I immediately telephoned your office and read both extracts from my letter and Mr. La Cossitt's reply to Miss Plotkin to forward to you.

Of course, I realize the tremendous pressure under which you are working. On the other hand, it is my honest opinion that the article appearing in one of America's most influential weeklies would accomplish as much for the Atomic Scientists and their program as an equivalent amount of time and energy spent in any other way.

When the Atlantic Monthly sought a statement from Einstein on the atomic bomb, the editor assigned a writer to interview Einstein and put the statement in an article. Similarly, when Collier's sought to secure Dr. Urey's viewpoint, the editor assigned a writer to collaborate with him. This practise is common and has the advantage of saving the time of the scientist

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and getting his ideas in current ,easily understood ,readable language.

Although you were good enough to promise to dictate the article yourself--and although this is very much appreciated-- I am quite certain that a satisfactory result would be obtained by simply telling me your ideas , letting me write the article and then checking the manuscript or letting one of your assistants do that for you. Both the Einstein and Urey articles achieved their objectives without making too great demands on the time and energy of these men of science.

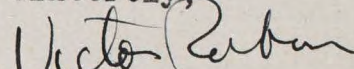
On the other hand, if you still prefer to dictate the article and send it to me, kindly let me know approximately when I may expect this so that I may advise Mr. La Cossitt.

Mr. La Cossitt has been in Chicago twice since writing me that he is still interested in the article--but both times you were in Washington. Yes, Collier's is still interested.

Enclosed is the outline which I sent Mr. La Cossitt originally for his approval. You read it the night I had the pleasure of dining with you, but it may prove useful to you.

By the way, I am rather close to Senator Lucas, our senior senator from Illinois. If he can help your group in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Victor Rubin

City Planning

March 19, 1946

Mr. Victor Rubin
7710 No. Ashland Avenue
Chicago 26, Illinois

Dear Mr. Rubin:

Many thanks for your letter of March 9th which was forwarded to me in Washington.

I have made some notes toward the preparation of the article for Collier's, but unfortunately I left the notes in Chicago; otherwise I might begin to work on it here. As it is, I do not think I can do anything about it for another ~~ten~~ days until I get back to Chicago.

I still prefer to write the article at leisure rather than use the technique which was applied in Einstein's article in the Atlantic Monthly or in Urey's piece for Collier's. I don't think there is a particular urgency for this article since as time goes on people will be more and more receptive toward the adoption of radical solutions.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS:eb

CC - Marschak
M. Friedman
Seller

April 26, 1946

Mr. Victor Rubin
City of Chicago Law Department
City Hall
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Rubin:

I thought over our telephone conversation of April 24th and came to the conclusion that since you have given much thought to the matter and have also discussed the subject with others, that it will probably be best for you to write the article yourself, either alone or in collaboration with someone else.

As for myself, I shall gradually put down on paper my thoughts on the subject as I originally intended to do and may at some later date see if I can get the article published somewhere. In any case, in fairness to you, I shall not submit the article to COLLIERS without first consulting with you about the matter. If you are going to write the article yourself, I take it that you will submit your article to COLLIERS within a reasonable period of time, say six weeks or two months and that you will let me know whether or not your article has been accepted or rejected. I myself believe that the time is probably not yet ripe for such an article and will be, therefore, in no hurry to submit my article to anyone.

In view of the above, please feel free to go ahead with this matter yourself, independently of my own plans and see if you can get your article written and accepted by COLLIERS.

Sincerely yours,

L. Szilard

Leo Szilard

LS:jjp