

WBBM-TV

~~To file~~
file: Dwt babrows

CBS Television Stations · A Division of Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.

630 NORTH McCLURG COURT, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS · WHITEHALL 4-6000

February 21, 1963

Dr. Leo Szilard
DuPont Plaza Hotel
DuPont Circle
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

The 3rd National Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Space begins in Chicago April and concludes in May this year. Scientists from all over the world will be converging on Chicago in order to discuss space and its applications to the future.

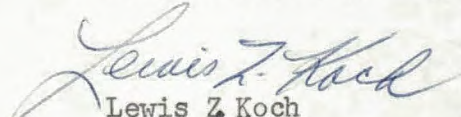
Recently I was in conversation with Lois Gardner, assistant editor at the BULLETIN of the ATOMIC SCIENTISTS, concerning the program "At Random", which begins approximately midnight Saturday on WBBM-TV and continues until 3:00 AM Sunday morning.

As the name implies, the program is a relaxed and casual conversation among five or six people on the issues of the day. Among our guests, as I mentioned to Miss Gardner, who have made appearances on our program are President Truman, Adlai Stevenson, Richard Nixon, Edward R. Murrow, and Senators Goldwater, Dirksen and Douglas.

I read your book "Voice of the Dolphins" with extreme interest and would be more than pleased if you would consider an appearance on our show with several of your colleagues. Of course, we would be pleased to defray your expenses from Washington if you would like to make the trip especially for the program.

I realize how full your schedule must be but I would think that the people of Chicago, where the first pile began, would be deeply interested in your present views.

Very sincerely yours,


Lewis Z. Koch
Producer

LZK/bvc

February 25, 1963

Lewis Z. Koch, Producer
WBMM-TV
630 North McClurg Court
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Koch:

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

I would not make an extra trip to Chicago, but would be very happy to appear on your program, "At Random", if I happen to be in Chicago over a weekend. Recently, I reached, however, the conclusion that it is useless for me to go on television unless the show can take the form of a friendly interview with someone with whom I can talk over the substance of the interview beforehand, i.e., while I am on I want to have the screen to myself.

I should be grateful if you would let me know if this can be fitted in with the format of your program. If it can be, I would then contact you next time I am scheduled to go to Chicago.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

cc: Miss Lois Gardner

file: Mrs. Babcock

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February 27, 1963

Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel DuPont Plaza
DuPont Circle and New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

"At Random" as a WBBM-TV production is very basically concerned with fairness and balance. We have people on the program who may or may not agree with other guests. This is not to say that the moment one person begins to say something, another guest will interrupt. On the contrary, the style of the show is based upon the idea that when a few people get together for coffee and conversation in one's apartment, there are not the frantic interruptions of a cocktail party, but rather the quiet thoughtful discussions of contemporary problems.

If you could find it within your schedule to appear on this program, I can assure you there would not be more than 2 or 3 other people on the panel with Moderator Carter Davidson. It would be possible for you to discuss any questions which you would care to raise before the show with Mr. Davidson, and since I will furnish you with an advance guest list, you could also discuss some of the issues and points to be raised before the show.

I deeply understand your idea of "wanting to have the screen to yourself" which in essence is what you would have. The program lasts 3 hours and in that period of time each guest, I am quite certain, would have more than ample time to present their views uninterrupted.

If the format as I have outlined it is satisfactory to you, I would be more than pleased to accept your appearance at any time you are scheduled to come to Chicago.

Very sincerely yours,

Lewis Z. Koch
Lewis Z. Koch

LZK/bvc

March 5, 1963

Lewis Z. Koch
WBEM-TV
630 North McClurg Court
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Koch:

Many thanks for your kind letter of February 27th. I understand the need of having a program which presents views with fairness and balance and this should not be difficult to accomplish if your program lasts three hours.

If I were alone on the screen with an interviewer, I wouldn't expect to be on for more than half an hour and then somebody who disagrees with the premises on which my arguments are based would presumably have his say. Alternatively, if someone else were with me on the screen in addition to the moderator, I would not expect to be on for longer than one hour. These are, however, the only two alternatives that I would consider, for no useful purpose would be served in my arguing with people if we differ in the premises on which our arguments are based.

If your show is live and cannot be taped in advance, then I could go on it only if I were on it from 12:00 to 12:30 a.m. or 12:00 to 1:00 a.m. After 1 a.m. I get too sleepy to be of much use.

The above then are my limitations and if you think you can live with them, I should be grateful if you would let me know.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

WBBM-TV

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March 14, 1963

Dr. Leo Szilard
Hotel DuPont Plaza
DuPont Circle and New Hampshire Avenue N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

The conditions of the show which you stated -- that is, one other person with you and the moderator, Carter Davidson, would seem acceptable to me.

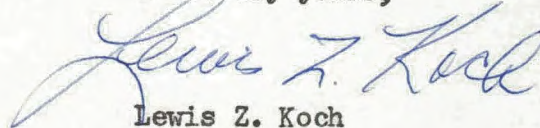
I therefore would like to at this time invite you to appear on "At Random" as soon as I can find someone else to be on the panel with you during that hour that you would be on -- 12:00 to 1:00.

If there are certain dates that you will find yourself in Chicago, I would appreciate knowing them. It would then be easier for me to structure the show around the problems you would discuss.

If there is no date that you will be in Chicago in the near future, then I will try to find someone else that would be a good guest with you and then notify you and see if you will be free.

Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,



Lewis Z. Koch

-bvc

March 22, 1963

Lewis Z. Koch
WBBM-TV
630 North McClurg Court
Chicago 11, Illinois

Dear Mr. Koch:

Many thanks for your kind letter of March 14th. I would very much like to do the broadcast, but I can do it only if I have a trip scheduled to Chicago for other reasons. I will then, if I may, write to you as soon as there is a trip to Chicago scheduled and you can then see whether you may be able to find another "good guest".

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard