

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
March 31, 1950

Dr. Walter Orr Roberts
High Altitude Observatory
Boulder, Colorado

Dear Dr. Roberts:

I am sorry to bother you with this at a time when you must be very busy indeed arranging the conference, but I wondered if it would be possible for me to have any secretarial help during the week I am at Boulder. I thought perhaps some student who has a fairly good shorthand and perhaps some experience with secretarial work might be found with whom I could arrange from day to day to work for a few hours. If there is an employment office at the University, they may have a list of girls who are willing to take on this kind of work. I would rather have someone who can be reached by telephone so that we can keep a flexible schedule.

I plan to be in Boulder on Monday when the conference begins and stay there until Friday night or Saturday noon, if there is anything scheduled for Saturday.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have written to Jim Patton of the Farmers Union. Perhaps you have invited him to the conference anyway, in which case we can work out something with him when I am there. If he wants to make some arrangements in advance, perhaps you could tell him what day would be best for me to go to meet him and ^wwhoever he may invite in Denver.

Sincerely yours,



Leo Szilard

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY

OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

24 April 1950

Observing Station:

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
CLIMAX, COLORADO

Laboratory and Administrative
Office:

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
BOULDER, COLORADO
(Please reply to this address)

AIR MAIL

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

White
by Harrison

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I have just returned from a long discussion with President Stearns about the committee for Colorado to be associated with the national activities. We also discussed at some length the plan as a whole.

Stearns felt that the choice of Henry, Swan, White, and Hoyt was excellent. Regarding Hoyt he said that he felt the choice of Hoyt to the committee would assure the minimization of the importance of the group by the Scripps-Howard (competing) newspaper. And it might be possible in some way to get the support of both papers if neither editor or if both editors were on the committee. However, he thought that as a calculated risk the choice of Hoyt alone would be O.K.

So far as Patton is concerned, he felt that Patton was one of the most able members of the committee, would contribute a lot of energy and activity, but that with a large segment of the agricultural population of the state and the area the committee would have a left wing appearance. The reason for this is that Henry, Swan, and White would be relatively little known to the farmers, whereas Patton would be extremely well known.

Stearns thought, however, that Patton should definitely be on the committee, but perhaps balanced by a man active in farm circles of slightly more conservative stripe, but still with great public interest. Stearns suggested two men, father and son, who might well qualify. The father is Harry W. Farr of Greeley, Colorado. The man is an alumnus of the University, and is widely known among farmers in the area for his activities in important farm issues. I regret to say that I failed to find out whether he is associated with the National Grange or some other of the farm groups. I believe that Stearns' implication was that the man is associated with one of the more conservative farm organizations.

The son, William Farr, like his father, is extremely well known in farm circles, and has been very prominent in public affairs, also like his father. Stearns seemed to think that either of the two men would be equally good.

As for myself, I know nothing about either of the men, and so am not able to make any independent evaluation.

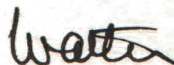
*James White
Editor Western Farm Letter*

Patton

24 April 1950

Let me know if you would like me to do any further follow-up before you plan another trip out here. We certainly are grateful to you for coming to the World Affairs Conference. You'll be interested to know that your talk in the University Theater the last day of the conference, seems to be, by consensus opinion, the high spot of the conference. Stearns sends his kind personal regards.

Very sincerely yours,



Walter Orr Roberts

WOR/di

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 57, Illinois
May 11, 1950

Dr. Robert Orr Roberts
High Altitude Observatory
Boulder, Colorado

Dear Roberts:

Many thanks for your very kind letter April 24. I took up the matter with Harrison Brown and Joe Mayer, who, together with me, constitute the Committee of Arrangements appointed by the Emergency Committee. Harrison Brown and I also talked it over with James G. Patton, whom we saw in New York and with Mr. Hutchins and Josiah Marvel, with whom Harrison Brown and I had a conference in New York last Monday, and finally Harrison Brown and I talked about it to Louis Weiss and Lloyd Garrison in New York.

Everybody is enthusiastic about the suggestion of having Byron White head up the regional committee, and so we have reached the point where you might find it advisable now to approach him about it. Why don't you and Dean King just take the matter straight to him and see how he feels about it. Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum which you might wish to send him in advance of your conference; and then, when you see him, you might bring him up-to-date ^{on the} ~~with the~~ progress that has been made since that memorandum was written.

There has been some further discussion concerning the terms of reference of the commission. It was pointed out that the Russian team even though they are not supposed to "play the Russians", nevertheless *must* stay sufficiently close to reality to be able to produce significant results. Thus they must, for instance, consider it their responsibility

to safeguard the stability of the Russian government (even though they privately might think that the downfall of the present Russian government might be a good thing for the Russian people), and it will be necessary for them carefully to consider under what circumstances and to what degree Russia could be opened up to inspection and exposed to the influx of spies and possible agitators without endangering the stability of the Russian government. Further, while it is ^{not} the job of the Russian team to appraise long range Russian intentions and designs, it is necessary for the American team--since they have to say what terms ought to be acceptable to America--to make a realistic appraisal of Russian intentions before they can reach a conclusion whether it would be in the American interest to accept any given proposal for ^{an} ~~our~~ over-all settlement.

At present, our most important job--apart from setting up a regional committee in Denver--is to find six to eight men who would form the nucleus of the "Board" and who would create a corporate entity separate from the Emergency Committee for implementing our plan. The name of the organization has not been finally decided, but it might be something like "Citizens' Inquiry into the Conditions of Peace."

Because this is to be a "citizens' inquiry", we are very anxious to secure for the Board, the services of men who have not so far played a major roll in any political action, but who now feel sufficiently concerned to be willing to devote at least part of their time to this inquiry.

Mr. Hutchins has accepted the chairmanship, and we have asked Clarence Pickett of the Society of Friends to be vice-chairman. Since the time which he could devote to this job is limited, it will probably be necessary to have a second vice-chairman. We hope to have Pickett's answer by the 25th of this month. Josiah Marvel appears to be quite interested in this enterprise and offered to come from Wilmington to New York or Washington

to confer with us whenever necessary.

It is our intention to ask at an early date Gustavson, Stearns, Laird Bell, Fowler McCormick, and Marshall Field to serve on the Board.

We have the permission of James Patton to put him on the Board whenever we have enough of the more conservative names so that we would be able to do so without creating an unbalance.

I have a four-page letter from Grenville Clark about our proposals, but it seems that we will not be able to get him to serve on the Board because of his other commitments and his health.

We just received a grant of \$10,000 from the World Government Foundation as a token of their appreciation, and ^{we are} ~~were~~ inclined to think that we should probably have a fund of \$200,000 before any public acknowledgement is made.

I wondered if you could convey all this to Mr. White. If you think that by coming to Denver, I could be of some use ~~in recruiting~~ in obtaining the approval of desirable persons to serve on the regional committee, ^{I shall try to arrange} ~~The~~ period between May 25 and June 5 would probably be the easiest for me to get away from Chicago.

*but the
help to
Denver.*

I note that in your letter you did not include the names of Dick Davis and Allan Phipps. ^{Is} Is this an oversight, or did you change your mind about them?

I mentioned ^{the} ~~the~~ proposal of ~~ixx~~ including the older or younger Farr to Patton who countered with a proposal of including James White, editor of Western Farm Life, on the ground that he would be better known to the farmers of Colorado, and otherwise serve the same purpose as the inclusion of Farr would serve.

*do not include
a trip to Denver in my schedule*

Please convey the information contained in this ^{letter} also to Dean King,
together with my best wishes. I enclose three carbons for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

WV

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY

OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

22 May 1950

Observing Station:

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
CLIMAX, COLORADO

*Laboratory and Administrative
Office:*

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
BOULDER, COLORADO
(Please reply to this address)

AIR MAIL

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

Dear Szilard:

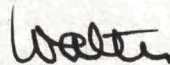
Thanks for your letter of the 11th. It came while I was scarcely able to be at my desk at all, and so I have not been able to do any more than make some preliminary discussions with various people about it. However, this morning things are back to normal here, and I am going to be able to make some follow-up.. This morning Ed King and I are going to have a conference, and in a day or two I believe we can let you know about Byron White, and perhaps also the rest of the regional committee.

The exact functions of the regional committee and the relationship of the regional committee to the "Board" is not completely clear in King's mind nor in mine. We may, therefore, telephone you later today about it.

In any event, I am sure we will have something more definite to report to you by the end of the week, and I shall see that this all comes to you quickly. We certainly congratulate you on gaining the acceptance of Hutchins.

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Walter Orr Roberts

WOR/di

P.S. This P.S. is being written after my talk with Ed King. We have talked over the whole situation about the committee, and we have reached the following plan. I am going to write a letter to Byron White enclosing your memorandum, and some notes about the things that have happened. I am not going to ask him to accept or refuse this letter, but am going to ask him to let me arrange to see him. When I see him, I shall go over with him in detail the functions of the regional committee, and tell him the proposed membership for the balance of the committee. If he agrees to accept, we will try to call together the individuals on the regional committee

22 May 1950

for a dinner meeting somewhere where we will ask them to join the committee. Preferably, White will write this letter of invitation, and he will want to have enough copies of the memorandum to enclose at that time. If it is possible to arrange that meeting at a time when you might be present, it seems to me highly desirable. If you are not able to be present, Ed King and I will attend. However, both Ed King and I are extremely active in and to some extent identified with United World Federalists, and it would probably be better to have the proposal and discussion by someone who is not so involved.

King and I also talked over some more the composition of the committee. The reason for leaving Dick Davis out is that he is apparently a member of the same law firm as Henry and White. This would not be desirable. We also felt that we should reserve the name of Allan Phipps to include if either Henry, Byron White, or possibly Henry Swan should turn down membership on the committee. Neither King nor I know anything about James White, Editor of Western Farm Life. However, I have a couple of friends who will know something about it, and I shall call around. Both Ed King and I felt that it would be desirable to include Mr. Harold Silver on the committee. We realized, somewhat to our surprise, that we did not have a business man at all on the committee. Silver is a business man, and one who would take a great interest in this activity, and would have great influence in Denver. He has not been very active in any political activity, but has headed such things as the Community Chest and various charities. He is also active in various service clubs. At the same time, he is a man of good reasonableness and basic liberality. And an enormous asset is the energy, industry, and widespread contact possessed by his wife, who would, in both King's and my opinion, concern herself substantially with this committee if Harold were to accept. We even thought of the possibility of recommending that Mrs. Harold Silver serve on the committee and it isn't too bad an idea. However, it is probably preferable to have Harold serve, since she will concern herself with it anyway.

There is about where things stand at the moment. I shall send you copies of any other correspondence that may be pertinent.

WOR

di

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY

OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

4 January 1951

Observing Station:

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
CLIMAX, COLORADO

*Laboratory and Administrative
Office:*

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
BOULDER, COLORADO
(Please reply to this address)

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

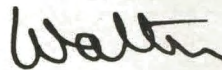
Dear Szilard:

Once again the time has rolled around when we begin thinking about the World Affairs Conference in April. The dates this year are Monday, the 9th, through Friday, the 13th. The members of the World Affairs Conference committee are unanimous about the tremendous amount of stimulation we all received from your participation last year, and so we hope very much that you will be able to be with us again this year.

We haven't worked out even a preliminary program yet, but I shall see that one comes to you as soon as it can be done. Meanwhile, if there is any chance of your coming, we'd like ever so much to have you try to arrange it.

The other members of the committee join me in sending best regards,

Very sincerely yours,



Walter Orr Roberts

WOR/di

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W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

NIGHT LETTER

Dr. Walter Orr Roberts
High Altitude Observatory
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

RE YOUR LETTER FEBRUARY 19, REGRET NOT PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE
IN YOUR APRIL MEETING THIS YEAR BUT BE GLAD TO SIT IN ON
PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION SESSIONS BETWEEN PANEL LEADERS IF
TIME PERMITS. REGARDS,

LEO SZILARD

Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois
February 27, 1951

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY

OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

19 February 1951

Observing Station:

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
CLIMAX, COLORADO

*Laboratory and Administrative
Office:*

HIGH ALTITUDE OBSERVATORY
BOULDER, COLORADO
(Please reply to this address)

AIR MAIL

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

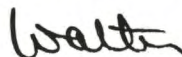
Dear Dr. Szilard:

The World Affairs Conference committee met again today, and carried the plans still farther forward for the World Affairs Conference during the week of the 9th through the 13th of April. The committee would like to make a preliminary announcement of the names of some of those people who are planning to attend this year, and in particular are anxious to have you on that list if it is at all possible. Could we, therefore, put you down as one of those who will come this year? If you can attend, won't you just drop me a collect telegram.

The program is gradually shaping up. We expect that James Warburg will be here this year, and we have a couple of new slants for the organization of the sessions. We also are going to try to work out things so that we can have some preliminary discussion sessions between the panel leaders, as I believe it was you who suggested that we should do, last year.

We certainly hope you can come. We are expecting particularly nice April weather this year. The rest of the committee, and the others around the Observatory send along their very kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,



Walter Orr Roberts

WOR/di