

Persons

Department of Physics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois
October 3, 1941

Dr. Leo Szilard
Department of Physics
Columbia University
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

As agreed in our telephone conversation, I shall write you my reactions to the suggestion that I come to New York.

I mentioned that I consider it extremely doubtful that leave could be arranged, and coming is first of all conditioned by that fact. I should also like to know more about the organization of the group, and under whose direction it operates. I understood that you wished me to join you, Fermi, and Zinn. Is that correct? It would be of considerable personal pleasure and value if such is the case.

My leaving would result in idleness of our accelerator and interruption of my research since no one now here has the experience to keep it in operation and continue the program. Many of the other disadvantages--house lease, charges for storage of personal effects, increase in living costs, transportation, etc.--can be handled, as you suggested, by a sufficient income difference. Neither Mrs. Manley nor I are very enthusiastic about taking a small child to live in New York, but I presume this must be balanced against the desire to be active in the present situation.

I conclude, therefore, that excepting the question of leave and assuming that financial and other necessary arrangements are satisfactory, no strong position against coming can be maintained.

Sincerely yours,

J. H. Manley
J. H. Manley

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
URBANA

February 8, 1942

Dr. Leo Szilard
Columbia University
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Since yesterday it looks very much like I may be able to get leave if the President approves. I should therefore appreciate some information from you, but let me give you a bit of recent history.

You probably know Loomis' previous objections and the present hope that the reorganization may remove them. I was in Chicago on the 27th to see Breit & Conington, but at that time I could not get definite information about you and the rest of the ^{Columbia} group. For purely personal reasons I should like to know just who will be in Chicago. Is it possible for you to give me that information? What about Fermi, Dunning, Wally, Herb? Is anything known about the dates of arrival of the various people? I should like to know how important it is for me to get things in shape to leave here, and that depends on the answers to some of these questions. Two days ago I expected that I'd have to remain here at least the rest of the semester, but things have been speeded up so that it is possible to consider an earlier date. Although Breit wants it to be immediately, I'd appreciate your judgement as well as the above information.

Sincerely

John Manly

February 11, 1942

Dr. John Manley
Department of Physics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Manley:

Many thanks for your letter of February 8. I expect that the Columbia group with which I was closely associated will be, as a whole, in Chicago within two months. Anderson is already there. Fermi is commuting. Zinn, Marshall and Feld expect to move not later than in two months. Dunning has not been associated with this group in the past and is staying in New York. I expect to be in Chicago next week, but I may be tied up for a fairly long time to come in New York, though it is possible that I can extricate myself in the near future.


I have no clear picture of how the work is at present organized at Chicago, and for that reason I am unable to give you any information in this respect. I may have a clearer picture at the end of next week.

With kind regards,

Yours,

LS:H

Leo Szilard



October 27, 1941


Professor J. Manley
Department of Physics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Manley:

I was very glad to hear from you, and I should have acknowledged your letter of October 3rd earlier if it had not been for my desire to write at length and give you a full picture of the organization into which we would like to lure you. In so far as changes in the internal structure of the Columbia group are at present under discussion, it may perhaps be best to wait another two weeks before attempting to give you a picture both of the internal organization of the work and also about the nature of the work, in so far as it is possible to do so, across the veil of secrecy which is being imposed upon us. For the same reason, it appears best to postpone the personal interview which I am supposed to have with Professor Loomis in connection with this matter. A preliminary discussion of the subject took place over the long distance telephone, and it was agreed that it should be followed by a personal interview. I shall write you after this interview which I hope will take place within two weeks, and it is hoped that by that time it will be possible to give you all the information which you need to have in order to be able to use your own judgment and decide for yourself.

The main purpose of this letter is to tell you that we are here just as anxious to have you within our group as we had been when I telephoned you earlier in October, and we are sorry that we cannot move faster in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


(Leo Szilard)

LS:MEB

Person

December 8, 1941

Professor J. Manley
Department of Physics
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Manley:

Since I have last written to you I went to see Professor Loomis at M. I. T. and explained to him that we would very much like to have you here in our group. Unfortunately, Professor Loomis is not willing to release you for a number of reasons. Some of these reasons appear to be so compelling that I did not feel that I could press the point with a good conscience, so for the time being we have to abandon all hope to get you. The situation might perhaps change later with respect to one of the points which appeared to be the chief obstacle in my trying to persuade Professor Loomis to let you come to work at Columbia. Please excuse me for being so mysterious about all this, but I am not free to give as full an explanation as I would very much like to do. I hope that the slowness with which we moved in connection with this matter did not cause you too much inconvenience.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

L.S.

(Leo Szilard)

LS:MEB

Copies

~~1 Pegram~~

1 Fermi

1 Szilard ✓

~~2 Mitchell~~