

Washington Trouble

37

October 12, 1945

Senator Robert M. LaFollette
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

This letter has to do with a matter which I believe you will agree is of extreme importance.

At the present time Mr. E. V. Condon, Assistant Director of the Research Laboratories, Westinghouse Company, Pittsburgh and Vice-President of the American Physical Society, and Dr. Leo Szilard are in Washington on behalf of the University of Chicago collecting information with respect to atomic energy policy. Under the rules of the American Physical Society, Mr. Condon will be President of that Society next year. As you undoubtedly know, Dr. Szilard played a dramatic and important role in the development of the atomic bomb.

I am, of course, not in any position to assess or comment upon the work of these scientists in connection with the atomic bomb, but as you know, the War Department Smyth Report contains frequent references to the work of Dr. Szilard, and it is the work of Dr. Szilard and Dr. Fermi which was referred to by Dr. Einstein in his letter to President Roosevelt on August 21, 1939 which began the government's interest in the development of an atomic bomb. Both of these gentlemen have been intimately connected with the actual developmental work, and I do not believe that you could talk to two people with a better grasp of the problems involved and with a better insight of the possibilities of future development. These gentlemen, of course, cannot discuss matters which are confidential or secret. They are going to call at your office to arrange a meeting with you, and my own suggestion, which I hope you will not mind, is that it would be preferable to meet these gentlemen at dinner or some such occasion where there will be more time to gain your views. I am particularly moved to write this letter because I am so sure that in addition to their getting information from you which will be of extreme importance to the future development of atomic research at the University of Chicago, you will be interested as an incidental matter in getting such views as they may have.

I do not wish to trouble you, and I apologize for any intrusion on your time, but I have felt free to make this request of you because I know you will agree that there is no matter more intimately connected with the public weal.

Sincerely,

Edward H. Levi

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 · ILLINOIS
THE LAW SCHOOL

For Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Szilard

I think it would be a mistake to go ahead with the organization of a committee for peace of the type contemplated. I think at the present time it would be much better to go ahead with the Grafton type study proposal.

To go ahead with the committee on peace will tend to get in the way of the Grafton proposal. The Grafton study must be pushed with the idea of the worthwhileness of the inquiry. It will be difficult to do that if the sponsors are identified with what will look like a political action committee.

The committee for peace if organized now will have less appeal than it will have if more preparatory work along the Grafton line has been accomplished. It will probably lead to the organization of other committees such as the committee to uphold our foreign policy, and the result will be to narrow the number of persons who would otherwise be reached.

It would have the unfortunate effect of reminding people of such committees before the last war, and this would be a way of impressing people that a war is inevitable.

Moreover until something like the Grafton proposal has been worked out, the committee could only speak in the most general terms. But this can be done by individuals now and with much greater effect.

I think it will be a great mistake, and I hope I can be heard on this before anyone (meaning both of you) go ahead with it.

-Edward Levi

has an inquiry

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FROM: The University of Texas
Austin 12
School of Law

June 27, 1949

Professor Edward H. Levi
University of Chicago Law School
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Ed:

I'm deep in the heart of Texas, and still deeper in blue books brought from Cambridge. I confess I do not have any very clear idea how a group such as Dr. Szilard proposes could function, but I wonder whether it might not be made appurtenant to a scientific organization. If the Federation of American Scientists is still extant, it might authorize the creation of an Advisory Committee on Law and Legislation, and an assortment of law professors could be recruited to serve on it. If the Federation also still has a Washington office, it could see that the Advisory Committee got copies of bills which merited attention. It might also pick up state legislation. I think the field should be restricted to laws affecting academic freedom and scientific research.

If the Federation of American Scientists does not seem an appropriate stock, there probably are some other organizations suitable for the purpose.

A major advantage of such a relationship is that it would give the lawyers participating a client. As a consequence, I think our views would be taken more seriously than if we were simply telling the world. Another advantage is that it would provide us with a source of expert information if we needed that in order to appraise the implications of a bill.

Read the current Harvard Alumni Bulletin. It contains an interesting interchange between Grenville Clark and an alumnus who is worried by subversion at Harvard. Clark's letter is excellent.

Regards.

Sincerely,

(Dave)

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
June 29, 1949

Mr. Joseph L. Rauh
1651 K Street
Washington, D.C.

Dear Rauh,

I had lunch with Levi today who suggested that I send on to you the enclosed letter which he received from Cavers of the Harvard Law School. Levi thought that you might be in a position to stir up Cavers and perhaps also Walter Gelhorn at Columbia University. He also thought that you might be able to think of someone at the Yale Law School who could be stirred up. Tom Emerson would be an obvious choice, so Levi thought, but he was not sure whether his political activities might not be considered a liability.

My own comment to the letter from Cavers is that he understood the suggestion made in a narrower sense than that in which it was meant. Levi and I had in mind the whole broad field of civil liberties with the appropriate emphasis on laws affecting academic freedom and scientific research. An inter-university committee composed of distinguished members of the most distinguished law schools does not need to lean on the Federation of American Scientists or any other professional organization, and its prestige ought to be higher than that of any of the organizations I could think of on which such a committee could lean. I wonder whether you could stir up people a little along these lines, and stirring up Ed Levi a little further will do no harm either.

Sincerely,

m
Encl.

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
July 4, 1949

Mr. Edward Levi
Law School
Faculty Exchange

Dear Levi,

Enclosed is a copy of the article which I thought the Law Review might wish to print. If they in fact want to do this, I would appreciate their inserting an editorial note explaining that they wanted to print this article a year ago but that at that time I was reluctant to release the article for publication because the political tensions would have made it difficult for the reader to be receptive to the particular type of treatment of the subject adopted in the article. With the present relaxation of these political tensions, I withdrew my objection to the publication.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

m
Encl.

P.S. If the Law Review wants to print the article, could I possibly have 200 reprints?

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
July 14, 1950

Mr. Edward H. Levi
Law Study T
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Levi:

I am writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Council. Dr. Urey, at the last Council meeting, outlined the basic philosophy upon which, in his opinion, a satisfactory plan for retirement benefits ought to rest. I have attempted to show in the enclosed memorandum how such a plan could be implemented by describing one possible set of provisions and by estimating the magnitude of the sums which would be involved.

The purpose of the present letter is merely to give you notice of the existence of this plan and to put it into your hands so that you might form an opinion concerning its merits.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
THE LAW SCHOOL

Office of the Dean

May 23, 1960

ack: May 27/60

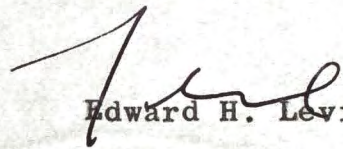
Professor Leo Szilard
Memorial Hospital, Room 804
68th and York Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Leo:

The much deserved award of a prize to you gives me an excuse to write this note to you to congratulate you. I also saw your picture in various places in connection with the TV broadcast last night; unfortunately my wife and I were on the train coming back from Washington last night, and we didn't hear it. I guess a sequel will be on the next week.

I think of you often, and the conversations we had so many years ago keep coming back to me.

Sincerely,


Edward H. Levi

EHL/mc



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
THE LAW SCHOOL

Office of the Dean

June 1, 1962

Handwritten notes:
H. Levi
A June 2 ans 1d.

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

Dear Leo:

It was good to see you, although I would have wished the place of meeting to be in Chicago!

But you are a University of Chicago professor, and I would appreciate it very much indeed if you would write me the names of some young people we should try to get. Or if not that, some kind of statement which an ignorant person such as myself might be able to use to prod other people with.

Won't you do that?

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward H. Levi
Edward H. Levi

EHL/nn

June 4, 1962

Edward H. Levi
The Law School
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Levi:

This is just to inform you and through you, the University, that I have accepted an appointment as a non-resident Fellow, which is an advisory and consultative position at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies at La Jolla.

The other non-resident Fellows attending at the same time are: Francis Crick, Cambridge, England; Jacques Monod, Paris; Warren Weaver, New York.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

May 17, 1963

Edward Levi, Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Ed:

I was 65 years old in February of this year, and if I remember correctly my appointive year ends on the 1st of October of this year. In 1959, the University applied for me to the National Institutes of Health for a ten years' research grant which carries me seven years beyond the statutory retirement, and which takes over my full salary for the period extending beyond the statutory retirement.

If I understand it correctly, as long as the University administers this grant I am regarded as being on "active service" to the University and my major medical insurance remains in force. Even though I have no troubles at the present time and no symptoms whatever, retention of the major medical insurance represents for me a major asset.

The purpose of this letter is to find out whether my understanding is correct that the University will keep on administering the research grant beyond October 1st of this year, the date specified by the statutory retirement provisions of the University. Will this require some action by the Board of Trustees? And, if so, is there anything that I need to do in order to initiate such action?

Incidentally, I am Professor of Biophysics on the staff of the Enrico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies, which places me in the Physical Sciences Division.

This being a formal letter, I should appreciate receiving a formal reply.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

May 20, 1963

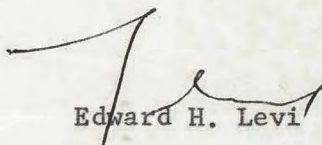
Mr. Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
Dupont Circle and New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Leo:

Your letter of May 17th probably crossed in the mail Adrian Albert's letter to you of May 16th.

Board of Trustee action is required, and since you are in the Physical Science Division, the recommending process must go through the Dean of that Division. I gather from Adrian Albert's letter that he is waiting for some documents from you.

Sincerely,



Edward H. Levi

From: Leo Szilard

May 20, 1963

To: Edward Levi

MEMORANDUM ON ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS AND INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH COLLEAGUES BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY AND JUNE

Attendance of Biological Meetings:

From April 15th to April 20th, I attended the meeting of the Federation in Atlantic City. This was an open meeting.

On Friday, May 10th, I attended a one-day, closed, meeting in Washington, D.C. arranged by the Medical Division of the National Academy - National Research Council.

I have been invited (and accepted) to attend a meeting in Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., from June 6th to June 13th. This is a small international meeting centering on molecular biology, attended by invitation only.

I have been invited by the World Health Organization to attend a meeting from June 26th to 28th in Geneva to discuss jointly with CERN work in molecular biology which may be set up in Geneva and to remain for consultations for a period of two weeks. I am being urged to accept by Victor Weisskopf, Director General of CERN, Jonn Kendraw of Cambridge, England, and Dr. Martin Kaplan of WHO. I have planned to accept this invitation.

Informal Conversations by Special Arrangement:

On May 14th Herbert Anker, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Chicago, flew to Washington to discuss with me his latest experimental results. The discussion had been scheduled for May 14th and 15th and took place as scheduled.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

I am jointly, with William Doering, Director of the Science Division of Yale University, co-chairman of the Council for a Livable World which maintains offices at 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. I am not an officer of this organization and I have no operating responsibilities. I attend Executive Committee meetings once a month; these are always held over a weekend.

I have not accepted any speaking engagement in connection with the Council's endeavors since September of last year.

May 20, 1963

Edward Levi, Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Ed:

Since I wrote you on May 17th I have received a letter from Dean Albert, which I am enclosing. I have not as yet received the documents to which the last paragraph of his letter refers, but I understand that these were sent me as a matter of routine by the Comptroller's office in care of my accountant in New York.

I find Dean Albert's letter disturbing and it induces me to say the following:

- 1) At this point the main issue becomes whether the University is willing to keep on administering my grant, as long as it continues. If the question is phrased in this manner, then the question of whether or not the grant might be cancelled becomes irrelevant.
- 2) If it were desired by the University, I should be glad to sign a document to make it clear that I would not accept any salary checks from the University except if they are fully covered by an outside grant.

* * *

Several years ago, when I was acutely worried about the early retirement at the University of Chicago (at 65 my retirement annuity from T.I.A.A. would be somewhere around \$1,500 a year) Harry Kalven raised the issue of my post-retirement situation with the Central Administration. At that time I received, through him, an assurance that they would be willing to accept a grant that would carry me beyond the retirement age and to administer such grants for an indefinite period, provided the grant were to cover my full salary so that the University would not have to commit any of its own funds. This assurance was communicated by Harry Kalven in writing both to me and to the Dean of the Physical Sciences Division (Warren Johnson).

Further, four years ago, the Administration applied for a research grant to N.I.H. which carries me seven years beyond retirement age and picks up my full salary when I reach retirement age. The last yearly renewal of the grant, to December 31st of this year, goes beyond my scheduled retirement date.

In these circumstances, I had up to now, no misgivings regarding the University's willingness to keep on administering the grant - as long as the grant is continued.

* * *

Edward Levi
Page two
May 20, 1963

As a result of Dean Albert's letter, there are several questions which come to my mind:

a) Is it necessary for me to receive a post-retirement appointment in order to make it possible for the University to continue to administer my grant?

b) Since I do not need any office or laboratory space at the University of Chicago, is any useful function served by my being attached to a department or division of the University? Would it not then be possible for me to be attached to the University as a whole and report directly to the Vice-President - Special Projects? I assume that any such transfer would have to take place now rather than after reaching retirement age.

* * *

Enclosed is a memorandum, listing the biological meetings which I am currently attending, and some other information which might or might not be relevant to the concern expressed by Dean Albert's letter, which you might or might not, share.

* * *

I propose to call you over the telephone in the next few days to get your tentative reaction to all this.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

P.S. If the granting agency should want hard and fast evidence to show that I am actually "working" all the time, I would presumably have to establish some formal relations with an institution in the place of my abode, where I could, so to speak, punch the time clock. I would rather do this, however, somewhere else than in Washington; Washington is not the very best place for me to work in biology at the present time, and I have been considering leaving it in the not-too-distant future.

LS

cc: Harry Kalven

May 21, 1963

Edward H. Levi, Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Ed:

Many thanks for your letter of May 20th. As you correctly assumed, my letter of May 17th crossed Dean Albert's letter of May 16th. Having received Dean Albert's letter, I wrote you on May 20th, and you should have received my letter in the meantime.

It turns out that the forms to which Dean Albert's letter refers were signed by me early in May and returned to the Comptroller's Office. I have written to Dean Albert accordingly, and I am enclosing a copy of my letter.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

file: Chicago

May 29, 1963

Edward Levi, Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Ed:

Since my last letter to you of May 21st, I received the attached letter from the Comptroller's Office. From it you will see what kind of report it was that caused the fuss. Apparently, the Dean's Office was not aware of the fact that the report in question had been promptly filed with the Comptroller's Office.

Upon receipt of the attached letter, I mailed a copy of it to the Dean's Office.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

June 3, 1963

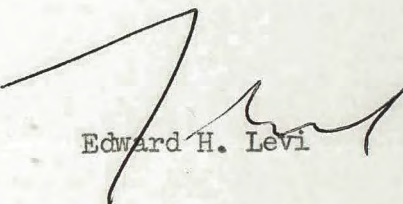
Mr. Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
Dupont Circle & New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Leo:

This is informal. Thanks for your note of May 29th. I am delighted to know from it that the material was sent and received etc.

Aren't you ever going to send me the names of young scientists who ought to be appointed here and might accept?

Sincerely,



Edward H. Levi

File Copy

Geneva, 6 July 1963

Edward H. Levi, Provost
Office of the Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois
USA

Dear Ed,

In a letter which I received a short time before leaving for Europe you asked me if I knew of any exceptionally gifted young man working in the field of modern biology who might be induced to accept a ~~position~~ position at the University of Chicago.

This problem has the following aspect : Most of the good young people know each other. There are ~~some~~ a few good young people at the University of Chicago and if they are disheartened or even luke-warm about being at the University of Chicago, then this will make it very difficult to recruit any exceptionally gifted young man in this field for the University.

My impression is that the good young men in Biology at the University are at present rather disheartened, and I have a pretty good idea why this is so. However, I cannot be certain of this until I have actually talked to most of them, and, if they are in fact disheartened, ~~made~~ it my business to find out why.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

Geneva, July 6th 1963

Edward H. Levi, Provost
Office of the Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois
USA

Dear Ed,

The attached photocopy was mailed to me from Washington to Geneva by my secretary. She had two letters photocopied on the same page. She is a spirited Irish girl and I would not know whether she did this for the sake of the contrast which the two letters represent or merely in order to reduce the cost of copying. Only Dean Albert's letter, on the left hand side of the page, concerns you directly.

I have sent Dean Albert a formal acknowledgement of receipt of his attached letter. (~~a copy of my acknowledgement is enclosed~~)

Several weeks ago Dean Albert formally notified me that the problem of my post-retirement employment has been resolved at least for the next appointive year, which starts on October 1st. (It so happens that September 30th is also the deadline for filing the routine application for the renewal of my research grant from NIH.)

Dean Albert's letter of June 24th raises the question in my mind of whether I can relieve the University of the obligations which it assumed by virtue of his previous notification that my post-retirement status has been settled for next year. Quite apart from the question of any formal obligation that the University may have assumed in this

matter, I wish to submit to you the following consideration:

If the University wishes to re-examine whether or not to continue the administration of my research grant from NIH, it could do so early next year. This would then give me enough time to negotiate with NIH the transfer of the grant to some other institution, if the University were to decide against filing, in September of 1964, the routine application for the continuation of my grant.

It would be virtually impossible for me to conduct negotiations with another institution between now and September 30th of the current year.

Before going into the question of how the University can go about "evaluating whether the continuation of my grant is really justified" if it believes it is its obligation to do so, I would like to raise with you, in your official capacity, the question whether it might not be possible for the University to take me out from under any Division and have me attached to the University as a whole.

One cause of the difficulties which I have experienced at the University of Chicago with various deans - with the exception of Morton Grodzins, Warren Johnson and Zachariasen, is that my interests are too broad to be contained in any one Division. Since my post-retirement appointment would be subject to renewal each year, the University would only risk to have to pay one year of my salary out of its own funds, if my current research grant from NIH should be discontinued.

In order to put this issue in its proper perspective, I am describing in the attached Appendix in some detail what I am doing at present and what I am planning to do in the ^{immediate future.} ~~near future.~~

In deciding whether or not the University wants to take me out from under any of the Divisions, and to attach me to the University as a whole, you might want to weigh the following considerations :

In the absence of an educated leisured class, such as the English aristocracy used to be, virtually everybody in America is busy pursuing some daily routine and there is almost no one left to perform important tasks which have not been assigned to anyone in particular. If the universities in America were in general to take a more enlightened attitude than most of them do at present, the professorial class, with their extended vacations and other privileges, could perhaps fulfil such a function in this country.

The new Administration of the University of Chicago might by now have clarified their minds on what role they would want ^{the University} to play within the national scene and also on the public image of the University which they want to generate. In deciding whether the University would want to take me out from under any Division and to continue me on active service for a number of years during my retirement, the University might want to face squarely the general question of whether or not it wants to encourage a few of its Professors to function as a Knight Errant, as well as to consider the particular question of my own case. In my particular case the University might decide, in this context, either that it would want to continue me on active service, even if this would involve the expenditure of some of the University's own funds, or that it would want to continue me on active service only if the University's own funds were not involved.

This brings me to the issue of the renewal of my grant.

Dean Albert's letter of 24 June suggests that I submit my plans for research for perhaps the next two years. My work under the grant is not for a project, or any kind of projected research. Rather, my work consists in thinking about basic theoretical problems and seeing whether I can develop any of the ideas that may occur to me into a quantitative theory that is capable of experimental verification. This is what I have been doing for the past five years and this is what I may do in the next two years. I cannot state in advance what ideas will occur to me in the course of the next two years.

This does not mean that I do not also have plans that could be formulated in the form of a project. I have such plans. Their execution would depend, however, on my obtaining additional grants or other facilities, and these plans are not relevant to the issue of the continuation of my present research grant.

In the circumstances it seems to me that any evaluation of the justification for continuing my present research grant needs to be based on my past performance in basic theoretical biology. In order to facilitate an evaluation on this basis by the University, I have prepared a Memorandum, dated 5 July 1963, which is attached to this letter. In this Memorandum I give for each published paper or privately circulated manuscript the names of one or two persons who have read it and understood it. These include Professor Herbert Anker and Chancellor George Beadle of the University of Chicago. I presume that the University could obtain an expression of opinion from all those whom my Memorandum names provided they were sent a copy of the paper or manuscript in order to enable them to refresh their memory. Copies of my privately circulated manuscripts are on file with copies of my applications for renewal of the grant, at the office of the Vice-President - Special Projects.

As I said above, the ~~xxxxxx~~ application for renewal of the grant

must be filed before 30 September with NIH, and NIH will notify the University by 31 December whether the grant is being continued for another year. If the grant is renewed, and if the University wants then to evaluate my performance for the first three years of the grant (which started on 1 January 1961) ~~xxxxxx~~, such an evaluation ^{could} ~~xxxxxx~~ take place in January or February of next year. ~~xxxx~~ I would ^{then} have enough time left to make other arrangements, if the University did not wish to continue the administration of the grant.

If the responsibility for administration of my research grant should remain with the Physical Sciences Division and if the Dean of the Division wants me to appear in January or February before a Faculty Committee appointed by him, then, depending on the composition of the Committee, I could either appear before such a Committee at a time convenient to the Dean or I could seek to arrange for a transfer of the administration of my research grant to another institution.

I should appreciate your transmitting this letter to Chancellor Beadle, with such comments as you might care to make.

The Appendix and its enclosures are confidential. Please feel free however to transmit them not only to Chancellor Beadle but also to anyone else, if in your determination this would serve some useful purpose.

Please also feel free to communicate to Dean Albert a copy of the body of this letter and the attached memorandum dated 5 July 1963 which is addressed to the University, if in your determination this would serve a useful purpose.

If you and Dr Beadle should come to the conclusion that the University cannot take me out of the Physical Sciences Division and that I must therefore continue to deal with Dean Albert please let me know whether you have transmitted to him a copy of the body of this letter or whether you would want me to write to him directly.

Your answer would reach me fastest if addressed to me c/o Dr Martin
Kaplan, World Health Organization, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

To Ed Levi
Provost, U. of Chicago

Leo Szilard

Appendix to letter of 6 July 1963

Upon the recommendation of a six-man committee composed of three Resident Fellows and three Non-Resident Fellows, (which include Seymour Benzer, Jacques Monod and Renato Dulbecco), I have received a formal offer to become a Resident Fellow of the Salk Institute at La Jolla. This would give me a position for life, at a salary of \$ 25 000 a year. I have the option to accept this position until 1 July 1965. Upon giving the Salk Institute three months notice I can take up this position any time from here on, if and when I take up permanent residence at La Jolla.

One of the attractions of La Jolla for me is that I would again have a laboratory at my disposal. The laboratories of the Salk Institute will not be ready for occupancy, however, until the Fall of 1964. It might be possible for me to get some temporary space, but just what is the situation in this respect I will not know until I visit La Jolla some time in October or November.

Since I would want to do certain experiments on the problem of antibody formation, if I can find the right collaborators, there is also the question of being able to maintain a sufficient number of rabbits. Shortly before leaving Washington for Geneva I called, in this regard, Dr Dixon at the Scripps Institute for Metabolic Diseases in La Jolla and he said that he could let me have 50-100 rabbits if I came to La Jolla.

In order to be able to decide whether, and when, to shift my residence to La Jolla, I would need to explore also in what way my wife could remain active in her profession there. She has been Associate Professor for Preventive Medicine at the Medical School at the University of Colorado in Denver, and she is now functioning as a Consultant to the Pan-American Health Organization in Washington D.C., and to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

* * *

I would also have to explore how much longer I would need to stay in Washington in order to bring to a productive conclusion my current contacts with certain members of the Administration and of the Congress.

On the one hand it seems that some of the key people in Washington are now beginning to listen to me. On the other hand, time is running out on the Kennedy Administration and unless by the end of 1964 the Administration can develop a picture of a set of attainable objectives - attainable by the end of President Kennedy's second term, -the President will not have enough time left to accomplish anything really significant. In that case there would be little point for my staying in Washington any longer.

Ed Murrow's enclosed letter relates to a project which is aimed at facilitating the reaching of a consensus on a set of attainable objectives, within the Administration. I discussed this project with Governor Harriman, Senator Fulbright, Thomas Watson Jr. and several others and the responses were generally favourable. For the time being I am therefore impelled to go forward with this matter and to see just how far I can get with it. The enclosed Memorandum, marked "from Leo Szilard to Edward H. Levi" dated 28 May 1963, and the attached "Proposal", dated 31 May 1963, just about describe the present state of my thinking in regard to this project. I now believe however that we ought to have one or two such meetings in order to demonstrate how the scheme would work, before the matter is brought to the President's attention. Just how far I myself would want to carry this project remains to be seen. A few weeks ago Senator George McGovern called me over the telephone, upon re-reading my Memorandum, and offered to pick up the ball and run with it if I turned it over to him. I am likely to do just that.

Another project, which I first proposed in a letter I wrote to Khrushchev last October and to which he responded by inviting me to go to Moscow to discuss it with him, has now received, somewhat belatedly,

the approval of the Government. This approval has been formalized through an exchange of letters between Hudson Hoagland and President Kennedy, copies of which I enclose. I might have to go to Moscow early in August in connexion with this project, unless it turns out that in the meantime Khrushchev has cooled off, which might very well be the case.

In September I am supposed to go to Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia where this year's Pugwash meeting will be held (20-25 September). The Pugwash meetings have lost some of their earlier importance, but this particular meeting will be attended by an exceptionally strong American group, which includes Franklin Long (at present Assistant Director for Science and Technology at the US Agency for Arms Control and Disarmament).

Also, this year's meeting will be attended by key members of the new Administration of the Soviet Academy of Sciences whom I have not as yet met. The Russians have recently published an extensive and favourable review of "The Voice of the Dolphins" (they did not publish the book itself !) and at the last Steering Committee meeting of the Pugwash group Academician Artsimovitch requested five copies of it.

One must strike while the iron is hot.

* * *

When I visited Geneva last October I raised with Victor Weisskopf, Director-General of CERN, the issue of setting up an international laboratory for modern biology in Geneva that would serve the needs of the whole of Europe and that could be more or less loosely connected with CERN. Encouraged by Weisskopf's response I contacted physicists and biologists in Italy, Germany, France and England. John Kendrew (Nobel Prize, 1962) agreed seriously to consider to head up such a laboratory, if the

Directorship were offered to him, and Buzzati-Traverso, Director of the International Laboratory of Genetics and Biophysics at Naples, offered to provide the summer courses in his laboratory, which would be necessary to make it possible to have a major development in modern biology in Europe.

Those primarily interested had one meeting at CERN in Geneva which I could not attend. On 28 June they had a second meeting at CERN which was attended by representatives of a number of European countries and which I attended also.

At the suggestion of Dr André Cournand, (Nobel Prizewinner in Medicine) of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, I have now undertaken to make the first approach to the French Government in this matter, with the thought that thereafter the contacts with the French Government may be taken over by C.H. Waddington, Edinburgh, or John Kendrew, Cambridge. A copy of my letter to Cournand dated 2 July 1963 is enclosed.

I have also undertaken to discuss in Hannover with Mr Gambke, Secretary-General of the Volkswagenstiftung (who has expressed interest in discussing with me this and other matters) the possibility that the Volkswagenstiftung might make a contribution to the initial expenses of the project. (He has about 25 million dollars a year to spend, and is apparently looking for advice on how to spend it.)

On 17 and 18 September there will be a third meeting of the group at Ravello, near Naples, at which formal decisions may be taken concerning the establishment of a European laboratory for modern biology. I have been requested to attend that meeting, and if at all possible I would want to attend it. Thereafter my European colleagues ought to be able to carry on in my absence.

Buzzati-Traverso asked me to look over the International Laboratory of Genetics and Biophysics in Naples on 15 and 16 September, just before the Ravello meeting, and it is my intention to do so, if possible.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

July 11, 1963

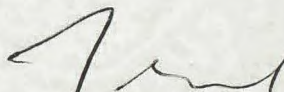
Mr. Leo Szilard
c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Leo:

I have your letter of July 6th and have read all the attachments. My conclusion is that I ought to show the letter and the memorandum of July 5, 1963 to Adrian Albert. He is now in California and won't be back until July 20, 1963. I also do think, Leo, that you ought to come to Chicago to discuss the whole thing. The problems as I understand them are such that, at this stage, they can be better discussed than written about in part because I think there may be a failure of communication as to what the problems are. I am sorry to have to ask you to do this, but it will be good to see you; and Chicago is not as far off as Europe.

Also, if you come, you can tell us about what can be done to help in the Biological Science Division. I would like to think that great strides have been made, but you will be able to find out in a way that I obviously can't.

Sincerely,



Edward H. Levi

Geneva, July 15th 1963

Edward H. Levi, Provost
Office of the Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois
USA

Dear Ed,

I have just received your letter of July 11th. You write that you would want to show my letter of July 6th, as well as the Memorandum of July 5th, to Dean Albert, and therefore I am enclosing a copy of this material for your convenience.

Since I last wrote you I have completed a preprint of the manuscript to which I refer in the last point, point 5.), of my Memorandum. I have sent a (typewritten) copy to George Beadle and I am sending copies to Tracy Sonneborn, Francis Crick and C. H. Waddington. Depending on the comments which they might make, I might decide to publish, or not to publish, this manuscript. I expect to see Waddington at the September meeting in Ravello and to get his comments at that time. Two mimeographed copies of this manuscript are enclosed.

I shall be glad to visit Chicago if you think that I ought to do so, and I could, with reasonable certainty, schedule a trip there for the second half of October. Would that be in time for the purposes you have in mind?

If I were to return to America in August I would have to cross the Atlantic twice, in order to be back here in Europe for the meetings I have to attend in September. It is conceivable, but not very likely,

that I may have to return to America in August, in order to attend a three weeks conference in Washington.

It is not clear to me from your letter whether your wanting me to visit Chicago has anything to do with the need of meeting the deadline of September 30th for filing the application for the annual renewal of my research grant from the National Institutes of Health.

As for telling you "what can be done in the Biological Science Division", I would have to make it my business to find out how universal the malaise is among the good young biologists in Chicago and just what the various reasons for this malaise may be. I have, of course, an inkling in this regard but I would not want to base any advice I may give you on that, until I have investigated and have arrived at what I believe to be valid conclusions. Also, diagnosis is one thing, and therapy is quite another thing. If you seriously want to have my advice, I shall do my best to give you good advice. I must warn you, however, that if after serious consideration I give you my advice and you fail to take it, then the next time you ask me for advice I would have to charge you my regular fees, which are not low.

Until further notice, my address for the summer remains:

c/o Dr Martin Kaplan
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Sincerely *LS*

Leo Szilard

ENCLS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

July 23, 1963

Mr. Leo Szilard
c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Leo:

I have done some talking around here, and I have been forced to the conclusion that you really ought to visit Chicago not later than early in September. Your presence here is required so that certain questions can be resolved, and some of them should be answered, unavoidably, prior to the NIH deadline.

I dislike asking this of you, and I am sure you know I would not put you to this inconvenience if it didn't seem to be necessary. I am sure it will be mutually beneficial to work out all these matters, and I am sure that letter writing is not a satisfactory way to do it.

Sincerely,


Edward H. Levi

cc: A. Adrian Albert, Dean

file copy

Edward H. Levi, Provost
Office of the Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
CHICAGO 37
Illinois

Geneva, 1st August, 1963

Dear Ed,

Many thanks for your letter of July 23rd. My commitments in Europe, through August and September, make it virtually impossible for me to visit Chicago before the September 30th deadline.

X
As you may see from the attached ~~appendix~~, there is a time interval, between August 20th and September 2nd, for which I am not yet firmly committed and during which I could therefore conceivably visit Chicago. As you may further see, however, from the enclosed memorandum, because of my medical situation, such a trip would unavoidably involve my wife and moreover it would be hazardous for me to make the trip.

It would thus seem that we have reached an impasse.

Since at this point I am still in the dark, concerning the nature of the problems that need to be met, I can not propose any way of resolving this impasse, with a high degree of assurance. Nevertheless, I shall try to make a proposal:

X
Let me then propose that we file ~~an~~ ^{the} application for the renewal of my research grant from the NIH on schedule, by September 30th. Subsequently, I would then visit Chicago, at the latest in the second half of October. If it turns out at that time that it is impossible to resolve the problems, whatever they might be, I would - on your say so - resign from active service with the University of Chicago,

./.

effective January 1st, 1964, i.e. just the date that the renewal of the grant would go into effect. This proposal, if accepted, may be regarded as a gentleman's agreement between the two of us.

If you were to ask me to resign, I would then seek employment at another institution and would apply to the NIH for the transfer of my research grant.

I would be grateful for you cabling me whether or not this proposal is acceptable.

If the solution I propose in this letter is not acceptable, I should be grateful if you could call me over the telephone (or if more convenient I could call you). If you give me some clues as to the nature of the difficulties, perhaps I can come up with a better proposal.

(I am rather mystified as to why my physical presence in Chicago should be required at this time and I am not able to appraise what the chances would be of resolving to my satisfaction such problems as may now exist, if I were able to visit Chicago. Perhaps I shall see all this clearer after we have talked over the phone. In view of the facts stated in the enclosed memorandum, it seems rather unlikely that you would want to advise me to visit Chicago between August 20th and September 2nd. If, however, you were to advise me to make such a trip, I would give it renewed consideration. I would review the issue once more with my wife and subsequently cable you our decision.)

If you call me over the telephone, please note that the time in Geneva is six hours later than the daylight saving time of Chicago. The best time for the call to go through would be between 12 and 1 o'clock Chicago time, and I believe it would be possible to put through the call in Chicago in the morning and to specify that you would want to talk with me between noon and 1 o'clock Chicago time. My telephone number at the Hotel Bernina, where I am staying in Geneva, is 31.49.50. In the morning, up to 11 o'clock Chicago time, you might be able to reach me in Geneva at the World Health Organization, telephone number 33.10.00, at extension 3244.

I should be grateful if you were to inform Dean Albert upon receipt of this letter, that I do not expect to be able to visit Chicago before the September 30th deadline, but that if I were told promptly by mail or over the telephone, if more convenient, what questions the University would want me to answer at this point, I would mail my reply by August 15th. After August 14th I shall be difficult to reach and may not be in a position to write letters.

Since I last wrote you I have completed a paper of which I am enclosing a preprint. Arrangements for carrying out the experiments outlined in this paper are under discussion and I expect to meet, at the International Congress of Genetics in Holland, starting on September 2nd, some of the British mammalian geneticists and chicken geneticists who might be interested in collaborating in experiments of this sort. I intend to exercise my privilege as a member of the National Academy and have this paper printed in the Proceedings, unless I learn through my discussions at the Genetics Congress things of which I am not aware at present and which make the publication of this paper inadvisable.

I am also enclosing for your (confidential) information, a letter which I received from Adlai Stevenson. As you will see from it the project, about which I wrote you earlier, continues to meet with favourable responses. Incidentally, if you were to accept the proposal I make in this letter and if subsequently you were to ask me to resign, effective January 1st, then I would not expect to be able to stay in Washington beyond February 1st.

My address in Geneva remains, c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan, World Health Organization, Palais de Nations.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

P.T.O.

P.S.

Should anyone at the University ask why I made commitments in Europe through August and September which make it impossible for me to visit Chicago prior to the deadline of September 30th, I should be grateful if you were to transmit to them my answer, which is as follows:

- a) I did not make any such commitments until after I received Dean Albert's letter which formally advised me that my retirement status has been settled - at least for the next academic year.
- b) I am on a 3Q contract and July, August and September is my off quarter.
- c) At the time when I left for Europe, I had no inkling that Dean Albert wanted to see me in Chicago. His letter, in this regard, was written on the day I flew to Europe, and was subsequently forwarded to me in Geneva.

MEMORANDUM

From: Leo Szilard
To : Edward H. Levi

Geneva, August 1st, 1963

As you will see from the attached Appendix, the only period for which I am not as yet firmly committed in Europe is between August 20 and September 2nd. However, a trip to Chicago and return to Europe, squeezed into this interval would, for medical reasons, unavoidably involve my wife and in addition it would be risky for me.

For the reasons stated below I am not able to travel, these days, without my wife. Even though she has her own professional life to think about, so far we were always able to adjust our travel schedules to the needs of each other. It is not possible, however, for either of us to make sudden changes in the travel schedules without upsetting the plans of the other.

1) As you know, I was quite ill in 1960. At present I have no symptoms and I am fully active. However, I have a cystostomy tube in my bladder which can cause trouble in three different ways and occasionally does. Two of these are mechanical troubles which occur quite suddenly and when they do, the tube has to be changed at once. Usually this is a fairly simple procedure but sometimes

it involves complications. Because occasionally I need medical attention at very short notice, I need to travel with my wife who, as you know, is a doctor and ^{who} has learned how to take care of my special needs.

On plane trips we always carry with us the necessary medical equipment in the cabin which, incidently, is quite heavy. Spending one or two nights in a new place has its complications and we try to avoid it as much as possible.

Because of the special, if cumbersome, care we are taking, we were able to keep down to a minimum, episodes of kidney infections, which manifest themselves in sudden high fever with chills. I did not have a single such episode since December 1961.

2) You presumably do not know that I have a coronary condition. I find that I can keep it under control as long as I avoid over-exertion. Also I must not stay above 4,000 feet. Transatlantic planes are pressurized between 5,000 and 7,000 feet and therefore such trips represent a certain hazard for me. How great a hazard this is I cannot say, but because of the changes which show up in my electrocardiogram, my wife found it, in the last few years, necessary to keep an emergency kit with her in the cabin of the plane, so as to be able to give me a morphine injection in case I should have a coronary episode in flight.

I do not hesitate to take the hazard of a transatlantic trip if I need to take such a trip in order to accomplish something constructive. After the first coronary episode, instead of taking the customary six weeks bed rest, I flew to a meeting in Canada because it appeared important for me to be there. While I would, of course, like to live as long as possible, I also want to accomplish

as much as possible, while I am alive. So far I have not given up a single working day on account of my heart condition but - as a compromise - I have limited transatlantic flights to one a year.

A flight from Geneva to Chicago and the return flight to The Hague, within a period of ten days, would be an over-exertion for me and to interrupt the flight from Chicago for a night, say in Paris, and another night, say in New York, would make matters worse rather than better.

*

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A P P E N D I X

to letter to Edward M. Levi of August 1st, 1963.

2nd August, 1963

My schedule through August and September is as follows:

- 1) Up to August 15 I have to stay in Geneva to do some writing in preparation of the Ravello meeting (on the issue of promoting the development of molecular biology in Europe) and also to prepare a Memorandum on a related subject that I have been asked to write by W.H.O.
- 2) For August 15 Howard Goodman (N.I.H.) has scheduled a meeting for me in Geneva with Zdenek Trnka (W.H.O.) and Sheldon Dray (N.I.H.) in order to discuss allotypes of gamma globulines. I have an unfinished manuscript on this subject with which I have some difficulties and Sheldon Dray's recent work appears to be relevant to the problem with which I am grappling. (See attached copy of letter of Howard Goodman.)
- 3) Between August 15 and August 20 I have to go to Hanover to see, on his invitation, the Secretary General, Mr. Gambke, of the Volkswagenstiftung. I am committed to raise with Mr. Gambke on this occasion the problem of promoting molecular biology in Europe. I am advised that from August 20 to October 1st Mr. Gambke will be on vacation and also that he could not see me before August 10.
- 4) From August 20 to September 2 I have no firm commitments. My wife had planned to take her vacation during this period. Also, we have been holding this period in reserve in case I should be asked to visit Moscow. I am committed to visit Moscow if I am asked to do so, but I do not believe that this is likely to happen.

- 5) I am trying to arrange for the performance of certain experiments in animal genetics and arrangements are being made for me to meet several geneticists from England (who work with cattle, rabbit and chicken) at the International Congress of Genetics in Holland from September 2 - 10.

- 6) On September 14 - 15 I am supposed to inspect the International Laboratory of Genetics and Bio-physics in Naples and on September 16 - 17 I am supposed to attend the Ravello meeting, at which final recommendations will be drafted concerning the setting-up of an institute for molecular biology in Europe, on the basis of considerations which I have initiated.

- 7) From September 20 - 25 I have to attend the Pugwash meeting in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, where, among other things, I am supposed to discuss with members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences matters in which the National Academy of Sciences has expressed an interest.

Edward H. Levi, Provost
Office of the Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37
Illinois

Geneva, 6th August, 1963

Dear Ed,

I hope to have a cable from you in the next few days, informing me whether or not the gentleman's agreement I proposed in my letter of August 1st has been accepted.

If it has not been accepted, then I hope that it will be possible for us to talk over the telephone before the week is over.

You wrote in your letter of July 23rd that my presence is required in Chicago, so that certain questions can be resolved, and that some of them should be answered prior to the N.I.H. deadline of September 30th. I would really need to know what the questions are which should be answered, prior to the N.I.H. deadline and why my presence in Chicago is required to answer these questions.

If the N.I.H. has specifically asked the University to review my research grant at this time, or if the N.I.H. has generally asked the University to review all research grants which, after a few years running, come up for renewal, and if in the circumstances, the Dean is forced to go through a formal procedure of re-evaluating my grant, prior to applying for the renewal of this grant, then this is something I would need to know. If this were the case, I might want to consider something I have not considered so far, i.e. to make a trip to Chicago physically possible, by cancelling all my commitments in Europe for September. Cancelling

these commitments might cause serious damage and it would certainly cause serious embarrassment. Moreover, cancelling my attendance at the International Conference of Genetics in Holland would represent a serious setback for the work which I am doing under my N.I.H. grant. Perhaps I can recoup this setback by going to see the British geneticists, whom I was supposed to see in Holland, later on, in January or February, in Edinburgh, but of this I cannot be sure. This is one more reason why, if it is an explicit request of the N.I.H. which forces the Dean formally to evaluate my research grant at this time and which forces me to drop what I am doing under the N.I.H. grant, in order to put in an appearance at Chicago, I would need to know it for a fact.

Incidentally, I may mention at this point, even though it might not be relevant, that just about the same time when the N.I.H. offered me a ten year research grant, I was also offered a super-grade position, at 17,000 dollars a year, on the staff of the N.I.H. If I had accepted that staff position, I could have held it for fifteen years under the rules of the N.I.H. In declining that staff position, and in accepting the research grant instead, I was relying on the assurance of the Administration of the University, previously communicated to me through Harry Kalven, that the University would be willing to retain me on active service beyond "retirement", on an outside grant.

For your convenience I am attaching a carbon copy of my letter of August 1st and its Appendix, but not the accompanying Memorandum, which relates to my medical situation only. I am also enclosing for your convenience another copy of the preprint, sent you with my letter of August 1st.

The information contained in the attached clipping, taken from the New York Herald Tribune, was interesting for me to read,

even though I could not say that it came to me as a surprise. I have not seen the "Look Magazine" article upon which this information is based. If it is of any interest to you, you might ask your Secretary to pick up two copies and have one copy sent to me. My address remains c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan, World Health Organisation, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

August 8, 1963

Mr. Leo Szilard
c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Leo:

I have your letter and attachments of August 1st. I had not realized the difficulties which would be involved in your return to the University in September.

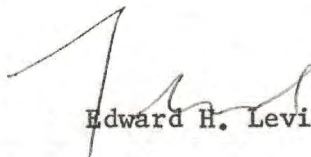
I should say that I don't think your post-retirement appointment at the University for 1963-64 requires discussion. As you indicated in a prior letter you have had some assurance on that from Dean Albert. The problems which seem to make some discussion useful concern the NIH arrangement. Since the NIH arrangement is important, I concluded that you really ought to come back for a discussion.

In view of your last letter, perhaps the best alternative plan would be for the NIH application to be filed on schedule but to have you arrange to visit Chicago in October. I gather from your letter this will be feasible.

Dean Albert is also writing to you.

I hope you have a good summer.

Sincerely,



Edward H. Levi

cc: Dean Albert
Mr. W. B. Harrell

Edward H. Levi, Provost
Office of the Provost
Administration Building
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Geneva, 21 August, 1963

Dear Ed,

I received your cable and your letter of August 8th and I was much relieved that it will not be necessary for me to return to the University in September. I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I have written today to Dean Albert.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan,
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NL=Night Letter

LT=International Letter Telegram

SF-1201 (4-60)

1963 DEC 2

The filing time shown in the date line on domestic telegrams is LOCAL TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is LOCAL TIME at point of destination

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DR LEO SZILARD

HOTEL DUPONT PLAZA WASHDC

I AM ASSURED IT WAS A CLERICAL ERROR STOP UNDERSTAND YOU ARE

GETTING A CORRECTED LETTER FROM DEAN ALBERT STOP SORRY

EDWARD H LEVI

(43).

06

COPIED FROM ORIGINAL IN THIS COLLECTION

pen files

May 19, 1964

Mr. Edward Levi, Provost
Administration Building
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Ed:

I am told that if The University of Chicago were to pay its professors, who are over 65 and who remain on active service on a nine-month contract, in nine equal monthly instalments instead of paying them - as they do at present - in twelve equal monthly instalments, these professors would be entitled to social security payments over a period of three months in each year.

Please let me know, at your convenience, whether you agree with this view. If you do, I would also be curious to know whether the University is going to do anything about it.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS:jm