

# BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

1126 EAST FIFTY-NINTH STREET  
CHICAGO 37, ILLINOIS



MIDWAY 0800 EXTENSION 1785  
MIDWAY 10052

October 6, 1947

Mr. Gilbert F. White  
Haverford College  
Haverford, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. White:

I was doing a little biology this summer, and when I got to New York City about the middle of August, the symptoms of the present strained political situation struck me with full force.

I am enclosing the manuscript of an article entitled "Letter to Stalin" and a copy of a letter which I have written to Secretary Marshall. Both have been submitted to the BULLETIN for publication.

I wonder whether you could find time to read the article and to scrutinize the letter addressed to Marshall.

The present plan is to have the article and the letter to Marshall printed in the next issue of the BULLETIN, which should appear around the 28th of October. Advance copies are being sent to a number of people by the BULLETIN with a request of commenting on it. The comments would be, if possible, printed in the same issue of the BULLETIN.

It is felt that if this article were accompanied by good comments on the part of persons whose voice carries weight, the chance that the article might have a good effect would be considerably increased. It is not expected that all people who have been asked to send in comments will be in a position to say that they approve of the contents of the article. Comments which would draw attention to the seriousness of the situation would also be helpful and could by implication express approval of the decision to write such an unusual article and to take such an unusual step as writing the letter to Marshall.

If you feel you can make some comment which might be useful if published along with the article, please address it, either in the form of a letter or a telegram, to the BULLETIN OF THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS. They would presumably be in a position to have it printed in the same issue. Such comments ought to be received, if possible, by October 10 and not later than Monday, October 13.

I would, of course, be very much interested also in any private comments you might care to make and which you may send me directly.

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard

1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
May 12, 1950

Dr. Gilbert White  
Haverford College  
Haverford, Pennsylvania

Dear Gilbert White:

As you will see from the enclosed memorandum dated March 27, 1950, the enclosed copy of a letter I wrote to Grenville Clark, and a copy of a letter from Walter Orr Roberts, we are making some progress with the plans about which I talked to you.

The purpose of the present letter is to enlist your help. Harrison Brown, Marshall McDuffie, and I saw Mr. Pickett in New York last Friday and urged him to accept the vice-chairmanship of the organization. We realize that he will not be able to devote much time to this office and think, therefore, of having a second vice-chairman also. It seems to us, however, very important to give this organization the right character to start with, and in this respect, it seems important that Pickett serve as an officer of it.

If our effort is to succeed, it is essential that it should not be regarded by Russia in a hostile manner, and Mr. Pickett's association with it would go a long way to dispell Russian suspicion that this might be a job put up by the State Department. Moreover, at the more advanced stages, the "Russian team" might have the desire to establish some sort of contact with their "client" and it would probably be best to have contact with the Russians through your organization rather than otherwise. In addition

to all this, it is desirable to avoid giving the impression that our plan is set up in competition with the efforts of your own committee, or as an unnecessary duplication of its work. To have Mr. Pickett serve as vice-chairman would help in this respect also.

Please do what you can.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

HAVERFORD COLLEGE  
HAVERFORD, PA.

May 18, 1950

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Leo Szilard  
1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo Szilard:

At a meeting last Tuesday I took part in a discussion of the problem of participation by Clarence Pickett in the "Citizens' Committee" organization which you are setting up. At that time we discussed fully the points raised in your letter to me of May 12th. No doubt since then you have learned Clarence's decision in the matter.

It seems to me that he is wise in taking the stand that he does, particularly in view of the many demands which are made upon him for his time and thought. If he were to undertake to participate, even in a modest way, in all of the groups that share our concern for reducing the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, he would have little time for his own contribution in that sphere.

I am sure you understand that all of us are in sympathy with your objective and join in the hope that it may lead to some constructive steps towards agreement.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Lebert White

22 May 1950

Mr. Byron R. White  
First National Bank Building  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. White:

Ed King and I have met several times, once with Dr. Leo Szilard, to discuss Szilard's remarkable plan outlined in the memorandum of the 27th of March enclosed here. Szilard, as you probably know, is a member of the Emergency Committee of Atomic Scientists, of which Dr. Albert Einstein is the Chairman and Dr. Harold Urey, the Vice-Chairman.

Szilard's memorandum outlines to Einstein a proposal for establishing an organization to study the international control of atomic energy, now that the negotiations on the Baruch proposal have reached a standstill. The Emergency Committee set up a Committee of Arrangements consisting of Dr. Harrison Brown, Dr. Joseph Mayer, and Szilard. These men have succeeded in getting Chancellor Robert M. Hutchins of the University of Chicago to agree to serve as Chairman of the proposed new organization. Clarence Pickett, of the Society of Friends, has been invited to serve as Vice-Chairman, but to date has not accepted. Pickett will probably answer by the end of this week.

Szilard envisions the establishment of several "regional committees" to assist the Board (see memorandum) in presenting the findings of the Commission to the American people. Dr. Szilard and the others who have talked about this are most enthusiastic in their belief that you would be the best person to head up a regional committee for the Rocky Mountain area. Szilard has therefore suggested that Ed King and I take up the question with you in a preliminary fashion. Thus, I should like to phone you sometime later in the week, when you have had a chance to look over this material, to gain your reactions. The committee, as presently visualized, would include, in addition to yourself, Mr. S. Arthur Henry, Dr. Henry Swan, Mr. E. Palmer Hoyt, Mr. James Patton, Mr. Harold Silver, and Mr. James White. However, none of these people has been approached, nor has this yet been discussed with them.

I sincerely hope that you will feel, as I do, that Szilard's plan is tremendously important. And I hope therefore that you will want to serve on and head the regional committee. There will undoubtedly be many questions that will come to your mind, and I'll be glad to make a trip over to Denver to talk about it all with you whenever it is convenient. I'm sure that Ed King, too, will be happy to talk with you about it. I'll plan to phone you sometime Friday, if you are in then.

Mr. White

-2-

22 May 1950

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Walter Orr Roberts

cc - Dean Edward C. King  
Law Building  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado

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

Encl.

WOR/di

COPY

1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
June 5, 1950

Mr. Byron R. White  
Room 810  
First National Bank Building  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. White:

Enclosed are three sets of the documents in which you were interested.

Since I last saw you, I talked to Charles A. Graham. Even though because of his connection with the Progressive Party we could not consider him for membership in the Regional Committee, I found him eager to help in every possible way, and I believe you could count on his help if any occasion to ask for it should arise. He suggested that I talk to Elliot Pratt in New York, and I am sending him a set of memoranda to be forwarded by him to Pratt.

I just write this to you for the record so that you are fully informed of all my moves in Denver. I was very happy that things worked out in Denver so well and that you had taken such an interest in the matter. Whether we can put anything across on the national <sup>scale</sup> ~~scheme~~, I do not know, but at any rate, I shall keep you informed of what we are doing.

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard

See  
Graham → L.S.  
June 12, 1950

1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois  
July 5, 1950

Mr. Byron R. White  
810 First National Bank Building  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Mr. White:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Charles A. Graham containing suggestions which you might take into consideration. We can't go very much further in Colorado, though, before the national picture gets more clarified. For the time being, everything goes exceedingly slowly, and what Koria will do to our plan, I don't know. Harrison Brown and I will discuss the situation next Friday with Hutchins. I am trying to finish up my experiments so that I can get away for a vacation and expect to be in Denver by the middle of the month. I shall contact you when I get there.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard