

April 18, 1955

it first

dawned on me suddenly surprised

It was ^{*was*} in July 1939 when I ^{*it first*} came to the conclusion that it might be possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a system composed of graphite and uranium. All I could say at this time was that there would be ~~better than~~ ^{*but*} a 50-50 chance that such a system would work, and if it did work, it seemed likely that atom bombs could be made.

Dr. Wigner at Princeton, who shared ~~with~~ my apprehension about an imminent war, kept insisting that we must make an effort to get the United States Government interested in this development, ^{*He and I*} and drove out ~~with me~~ to see ^{*on*} Dr. Einstein at his summer place ~~at~~ Long Island. We were told that ~~he~~ ^{*Einstein*} was staying at Dr. Moore's cabin, but when we got out to the location, nobody seemed to know where Dr. Moore's cabin was. After a half hour of search we were about to give up when I saw a little boy standing along the road and I asked him if he knew where ^{*Professor*} Dr. Einstein lived. This ^{*he did*} he did, even though he had never heard of Dr. Moore's cabin, and he directed us to ^{*Dr.*} Einstein's house.

Professor Einstein had not followed the work of uranium and ^{*what*} what we told him was ^{*new*} uranium. ^{*with*} That remarkable insight he grasped. The implications of this work he was ^{*at once*} willing to assume responsibility even though there was ^{*for sounding the alarm*} a 50-50 chance that the ^{*alarm*} theory might prove to be a false alarm. The one thing that ^{*most scientists*} artists are afraid of is to make a fool of themselves. Professor Einstein was free from such a ^{*low*} thing. And this is what made his position ^{*most really*} unique. ^{*in this important occasion*}

above all

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A few days later, I went to see him again. This time I went with Dr. Edward Teller who has since become known as the ~~father~~ ^{father} of the H-Bomb. ~~The upshot was~~ ^{These two visits resulted in} a letter which Professor Einstein wrote to President Roosevelt. This letter was handed in person to the President by Dr. Alexander ~~Salk~~ ^{Sachs}, and in response to it, the President appointed a committee to represent the Government's interest in ~~nuclear~~ ^{the} work in uranium.

X Do you recall Einstein's reactions, by the use of the bomb?
 When I visited ~~Professor~~ Einstein at Princeton shortly after the bomb was dropped at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, our conversation turned back 6 years when ~~to the~~ ^{to the} I visited him on Long Island when we discussed the letter he might write to the President. "I believe," said ~~Professor~~ ^{you see now} Einstein, "that the ancient Chinese were right. It is not possible to foresee the conclusions of anything ~~you do~~ ^{results}. The only wise thing to do is to do nothing---to ~~do~~ ^{take no action} absolutely nothing." ^{what}

X Have you seen Dr. Einstein recently?
 In the past two weeks I had visited Mr. Einstein 3 times ^{repeatedly} at Princeton. He was ~~very~~ ^{main} much concerned that we might start an Atomic War ~~over~~ ⁱⁿ the conflict which is ~~a~~ ^{has arisen} reason in the Formosa Straits. He was so much concerned about this that once again he wrote a letter, putting ~~forward~~ ^{in the hope that that} certain suggestions which might lead to avoiding of such a catastrophe. I am not at liberty to tell at present ~~the~~ ^{they} to whom the letter was addressed or as to how it was addressed.

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He thought that this would be a catastrophe, and he was so much concerned about this possibility that once more he wrote a letter. ~~In this letter, he put forth certain suggestions in the hope that it might be a help in the event of such a catastrophe.~~ *He wrote this letter,* ~~In the hope that it might help in the struggle to avoid the outbreak of a war over Okinawa and Matsu, I am not at liberty to tell you to whom the letter was addressed, what it contained, or how it was delivered.~~ *efforts which are now being made*

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