

September 30, 1951

Dear Jonas,

It seems that I am more interested in thinking up schemes for making money than in actually making money. Enclosed you will find a scheme which is under scrutiny by the Law School. I wonder whether you think that the deal proposed would find favor with suitable investors, and in particular whether you yourself would find it interesting if the University could be persuaded to go along.

As you realize, I am using you here as a test rabbit.

I also wonder whether you could ask Mr. Preville what he thinks of the scheme.

If he would rather not be bothered, then I trust he will send you a check for \$500. for your favorite charity. I have no doubt that your choice will be the University of Chicago, and the donation might just as well be earmarked "for the research work of Dr. Szilard".

Incidentally, another point which you might take up with Mr. Preville is the following: Our Law School swears that in case of a short sale of stocks which is maintained over a period in excess of six months the profit is taxable as capital gain rather than income. They say that profit from a short sale which is maintained over a period in excess of six months is taxable as income only if you hold some of the same stock during the period. The purpose of this provision is to prevent a man from purchasing some stock, holding it for a period of over six months, and then claiming capital gain even though he covered himself in the meantime by selling the same stock short.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

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Encl.

Department of Biophysics
Medical School
University of Colorado
Denver, Colorado

July 24, 1954

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Reiner
1010 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Kit and Jonas:

This is a bread and butter letter of the modern variety. It was very kind of you to shelter me and to keep me from boiling.

I wonder how much tuberculosis there is in Jamaica. If there is, the time has now arrived it seems where one could easily get rid of it. I believe Jonas might be interested in the following. Here in Denver, in the National Jewish Hospital, which is a TB hospital, they are now convinced that if they give the drug INH, together with Vitamin B₆, they can give a high dose of the drug without undesirable affects and further are convinced that if they give the drug in high dose, they have practically 100% cure. Even though drug resistant TB bacilli will appear so that the sputum may remain positive, these drug resistant bacilli which appear when the drug is given in high dose are not pathogenic.

It would be sufficient to give one pill per day during the first week of every month. I believe the cost is as yet a little high, about 12¢ a pill for the INH and about 3½¢ for the Vitamin B₆. But still, the total cost per person per year would be only about \$12.00.

If the cost could be brought down a little further one might think of giving the pills to the whole population for a year and eliminate with one stroke for many years to come the disease from the island. After 10 years or so maybe one would have to repeat this cleansing operation.

The affect of Vitamin B₆, I learned yesterday from Dr. Middlebrook...his claim is that by giving a high dose of INH, about 8 millograms per killogram body weight per day, he can make sure that the drug resistant bacteria which may appear will not be pathogenic, is not fully accepted yet by others in this country but there seems to be confirmation elsewhere and it makes sense to me.

You can easily see how the pill which we discussed in New York could be used to administer INH also by incorporating INH in the first ten pills which are taken during the menstrual month.

I am still uncertain whether Jamaica is the best place for the pill experiments which we discussed in New York but in the meantime I am urging that the rabbit experiments be repeated on a larger sample.

Yours,

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
October 2, 1951

Mr. Jonas Reiner
New York, New York

Dear Jonas:

How would you like to make a capital gain of \$175,000 in five years on an investment of less than \$50,000 and be, at the same time, a benefactor of the University? This assumes that stocks will not go down over the next five year period and that you would stay, so God wills, in an 80% income tax bracket. For further details, see the enclosure which contains a modification of the scheme that I sent you a few days ago.

With kind regards to Mr. Preville,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds
Enclosure

H I G H H O P E

St. Ann's Bay,
Jamaica B.W.I.

Mr. Leo Szilard,
1155 East 57th Street,
Chicago 37, Ill.

June 29th 1956.

Dear dear Leo,

Thanks for the most optimistic letter that I have received since the Soviets announced the explosion of an atomic bomb! Your phrase "Right now I am trying to straighten out my plans for the next few years" probably was the most optimistic statement that I have heard since then from a responsible person. If you are contemplating living for quite a while, I think we are justified in spending a lot of time, money and energy in land-scaping our new house. We were looking for flowers and shrubs that could withstand temperatures of one hundred million degrees but now that we have your optimistic news, we are abandoning our search and will plant the pre-hydrogen varieties which we hope will blossom and beautify until "Der Tag".

A short while ago I wrote Nat Elias and informed him that I would handle all the business end of a foaming tablet manufacturing business if he would handle the technical end. It seems to me that for many years to come, there is little likelihood of the invention of a superior contraceptive for Undeveloped areas. Until a harmless and abortive or contraceptive pill that can be taken ~~honestly~~^{secretly} is perfected, the foaming tablet certainly seems to be our best bet. The myriads of sociological studies have not included a **Nuralogical** survey. In communicating with my friends who are specialists in this field, I find that in Undeveloped areas the vast majority of the under-privileged living in them, have a "pocket book nerve". We have found, in our elementary research, that this 'nerve' is particularly responsive to stimulation. In our public relations and advertising programmes, we contemplate unreasonable profits for our voodoo-conditioned mid-wives, our obia man, our philanthropic Chinese grocers and our public health nurses, and all others that come in contact with large quantities of people. Whereas, at this time, we can expect no official Government help, we can look

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H I G H H O P E

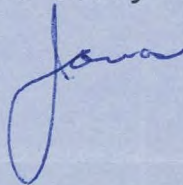
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forward to as much unofficial cooperation as is possible. Our newspapers and our radio stations, for example, will carry our advertising. The Government will strengthen and enforce laws pertaining to male parental responsibility. The Government will also probably make available every health and medical centre now established as distribution points. As you know, the tablet now being used was made on forms that produced oral tablets. If the tablet was redesigned for proper functional use and properly packed, I am confident that we could, by pictures, create effective instructions for its use. In any case of doubt, any mid-wife, public health nurse and the countless number that do know how to use them, could supply the necessary instruction. I know of no area available to us that would be a better testing ground. If our intense mass distribution campaign failed, it would be but a relatively small price to pay for the knowledge that the best public relations and merchandising brains can make no contribution to this problem. However, if, by well planned exaggerated promotional efforts, we could substantially reduce the birth rate in a two-year period, I feel we will have made a valuable contribution to this problem.

I am happy to inform you that we now have the Rudd Rufus Reiner Foundation established. One of its by-laws allows this Foundation to make whatever grants it deems desirable to travel and to maintain Hungarian scientists. We really would love you to come down here while Nat and possibly Leona are here. The International aspects of our new Company, I believe, are limitless. Aside from our just plain joy in seeing you here, I think you could make a valuable contribution during the creative stages of our planned operation.

Please be in touch with Nat and Leona, discuss this with them and rest assured that both Kit and I will welcome you here with great warmth and affection.

As ever,



Reiner

1155 East 57th Street
Chicago 37, Illinois
July 2, 1956

Mr. Jonas Reiner
"High Hope", St. Ann's Bay
Jamaica, B.W.I.

Dear Jonas:

I was very pleased to read your letter of June 29th which just arrived. What you write about contraceptives in Jamaica sounds very exciting, and if such classical methods of contraception are socially acceptable in Jamaica, I see no reason why they should not be acceptable in India. I do not know of any one more important field experiment than you are trying to do. I shall follow your suggestion and get in touch with Nat and Leona when I get to New York.

The decision about my own plans is deferred until September 15th, and I will not know the outcome until Christmas-time. I shall, however, try to keep in touch with you and maybe sometime I can slip off to Jamaica for a visit which I would very much like to do. On that occasion I hope to learn more about the details of your enterprise.

With kindest regards to you and Kit,
Yours,

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P.S. I understand that Snyder of the Conservation Foundation had a very successful trip to England and obtained results which would be of great interest to you. I assume, however, that you are in touch with him or that he will contact you shortly if he has not already done so.

H I G H H O P E

St. Ann's Bay,
Jamaica, B. W. I.,

August 1st., 1956.

Mr. Leo Szilard,
1155 East 57th. Street,
Chicago 37, Illinois,
U. S. A.

Dear Leo:-

Thanks for your welcome letter. Since writing you we have received Harrison's report. Harrison feels very much the way I do and suggested that the foaming tablet should be distributed without the necessity of the user identifying herself. Statistically we have proved the point that the foaming tablet when properly used is a very effective contraceptive. However, during our experimental period our demand for examination constantly ~~is~~ return identification and searching intimate questioning resulted ⁱⁿ over 600 mothers in this area reported ⁱⁿ voluntarily to the Clinic. This was also accomplished without the use of established channels of communication. The vast majority of our women in this area do not know that they can fully enjoy their private lives sexually without the need of having unwanted children. If, however, women in this Island could be informed of the cheap availability of such an item we feel that its use would be widespread, particularly so if the item could be obtained without any identification whatsoever. It should and will be available we hope everywhere and will be able to be purchased by any man, woman or child. We also plan to distribute free samples to everyone that we can reach.

I am surprised that the round trip ticket that you have in your pocket is not buring a hole in it. Summers here continue to be unbelievably delightful. Days are not hot, but are similar to days in late May or early June in New York. Nights are cool and require one or two blankets for comfortable sleeping. Our house and our view are lovely beyond description. No life is complete ⁱⁿ opinion in backward areas ^{is} fully valid without a visit here, ^{so} again we urge you to let the world blow itself to hell for a couple of weeks and come on here for a holiday with us. Our new Guest House will be completed within the next two weeks and if you and your wife would enjoy a holiday here, please cable us on your arrival.

Kit joins in fondest and warmest love to you.

As ever,

Jones

JR:IH.

Reiner

The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois
August 13, 1956

File

Mr. Jonas Reiner
High Hope
St. Ann's Bay
Jamaica, B.W. I.

Dear Jonas:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of August 1st. The round-trip ticket that I have is, in fact, burning a hole in my pocket and, as a result, I have to have a new suit made every three months. Since this is very expensive, I intend to get rid of the ticket at the earliest opportunity soon after your new guest house is completed. My present schedule will keep me busy until about September 10th. I am at present free to dream for the period thereafter.

With kindest regards -- also to Kit,

Yours,

Leo Szilard

Reiner

The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois
September 27, 1956

Dear Kit,

You were often in my thoughts these last few weeks. I now hear that you may come back with Helen to New York for a while early in October. I shall try to reach you at the Westbury Hotel when I am in town.

With kindest regards,

Yours,

Mrs. Kitty Reiner
High Hope
St. Ann's Bay
Jamaica, B.W.I.