

file: M

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

November 4, 1961

Mr. Joel A. Huberman, Chairman
TOCSIN Civil Defense Research Comm.
Quincy 310
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Mr. Huberman:

I am now preparing background materials on the broad questions of civil defense for Congressman Kastenmeier's use. The Congressman is thinking of approaching the subject by initiating public discussions of the various issues involved.

I would very much appreciate receiving whatever information you may have on this general problem--as well as on the more limited question of the efficacy of the shelter program. At the moment I am attempting to put together a bibliography of materials that the average homeowner should see before becoming involved in shelter construction. I am also working out a series of questions that each citizen should ask himself before accepting various aspects of civil defense. The questions will aim to reveal weaknesses and strengths of the program.

Any suggestions you might have as to the bibliography or the set of questions would be very much appreciated.

Incidentally, Dr. Leo Szilard will be speaking at Harvard on November 17th at 4:15 p.m. at the Lowell Lecture Hall. His topic will be "Are We on the Road to War?". He will also be available to meet with interested students on Saturday, November 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Associated Harvard Clubrooms, Holmes Hall.

Dr. Szilard is extremely interested in meeting with interested students. If his reception is good at Harvard, I believe he will be encouraged to speak elsewhere in the country to sound out further groups and interest them in a new approach to peace. I wonder if I may ask that you and TOCSIN do all that you can to see that interested people meet and hear him?

If you have contacts at Swarthmore, it might be good to pass the word to them that he will also be speaking there on November 19th.

Yours sincerely,

GAR ALPEROVITZ

House of Representatives, U.S.

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

FREE

Robert W. Kastenmeier

M. C.

For your information.

COPIED FROM ORIGINAL
IN THIS COLLECTION

GAR ALPEROVITZ
Legislative Assistant
WISCONSIN.

COPIED FROM ORIGINAL
IN THIS COLLECTION

CHRISTOPHER Z. ROBINSON
E-12 QUINCY HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE 28, MASSACHUSETTS

December 5, 1961

Dear Gar--

A belated thanks to your belated thanks--I've been acting in a play (about a family that wants privacy in its bomb shelter) and have had no time for schoolwork, let alone letters.

I think all of my friends thought Skillard's speech was quite fine. The meeting was well attended--about 500 people--and about 130 came to the informal talk the next day; most of these seemed willing to help in the "experiment". Arrangements were made on the spot for reproduction of the text, distribution, and the like. I myself haven't yet had a chance to speak to people at home about the idea; what I am doubtful of is getting people to pledge a two-percent tithe; I think I will find considerable support for the ideas in the speech, particularly the initiatives--though if we were to pledge not using tactical nuclear weapons except on territory already attacked, I don't imagine we'd find much support among our allies. (Deutschland uber what?)

The march in Washington, now set for February 16, is going well--in about ten days we will present the college with the idea. We are working on a policy statement and have a prospectus, which I enclose. Todd asks me to ask if you have any contacts at the University of Wisconsin who might be interested in coming; if you do, you can send us their names, or we will send you more prospectuses if you have time to write to them yourself.

A note on my own part--I wonder if you know anything, procedural or practical, about possibilities for summer jobs in Washington. Glen Miller told how he wanted to say to a man who questioned his vote on a peace-question, "Where were you when I needed help answering mail on the salmon bill?" That set me to thinking. Unfortunately, my constituents are Javits, Kenneth Keating and John Lindsey--but it might be worthwhile inquiring. Do you think so?

Thanks for all of this--I will probably come to your office, backed up by millions of chanting students, on February 16th.

As always,

December 12, 1961

Mr. David W. Cohen
509 North Henry
Madison 3, Wisconsin

Dear David:

Sorry to be tardy in replying to your recent letter. I ran into Leo Szilard over the weekend and find him interested in speaking at the University of Wisconsin.

He tells me he will be in the West in the early part of January and might like to make Madison on the return to Washington just before final exams if possible.

I suggest you write to him directly at the Dupont Plaza Hotel regarding the engagement, honorarium, etc.

Cordially,

GAR ALPEROVITZ
Legislative Assistant

GA:dm