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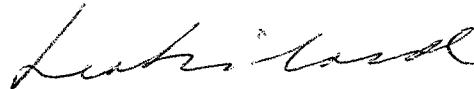
Professor Matthew Meselson
Department of Biology
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Meselson:

The attached letter is meant for you and those others whose names are listed in the memo "The Next Step". I should be very grateful to you for reading the attached letter and the enclosures, and for advising me as soon as possible whether you are willing to serve as an Associate.

I hope very much that you will agree to serve as a Fellow and that you will not disqualify yourself from serving on the Board of Directors of the Council.

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard

Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington 6, D. C.
Telephone: HUDson 3-6000

Enclosures

P.S. I am enclosing the revised and final version of my speech, which will be printed in the April issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

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Leo Szilard
Dupont Plaza Hotel
Washington 6, D. C.

February 24, 1962

RESPONSES TO DATE

Between November 17 of last year and February 12 of this year, the speech "Are We On The Road To War?" was delivered at the following universities or colleges: Harvard, Western Reserve, Swarthmore College, The University of Chicago, The University of California in Berkeley, Stanford, Reed College, The University of Oregon in Eugene, and Sarah Lawrence College.

In most cases I stayed over another day to be available to interested students for further discussion. The audience turnout and response were very good with the possible exception of Western Reserve. I spoke there before a mixed audience of students and adults of about 1,800, and the student response was rather mediocre.

I expected a good response at Reed College but not at the University of Oregon; yet 1,200 people turned out there to hear the talk at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and 200 students returned the next day to continue the discussion.

The speech was first given under the auspices of the Harvard Law School Forum. After the lecture, a copy of the speech was sent to those who asked for it and gave their name and address. We ran out of copies, and a graduate student, Mr. Michael Brower (at 3 Dana Street, Cambridge 38, Mass.) volunteered that he would mimeograph additional copies and mail them out on request (at 15¢ to 25¢ each, depending on size of order).

By January 1 he had distributed 2,300 copies, by January 15 another 3,500, by February 1 another 2,000, and by February 15 another 3,500.

Each campus mimeographed its own copies of the speech for distribution. Chicago distributed 2,500 copies to date.

The press comments were uniformly favorable. A set of press clippings is available in the office of Professor Bernard Feld in the Physics Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in the office of Professor David Hogness in the Department of Biochemistry at Stanford University, and at the office of Professor Owen Chamberlain in the Physics Department at the University of California in Berkeley. It can be also obtained from me.

A few days after I delivered the speech in Chicago, ABC's 6 o'clock Television News -- a coast-to-coast broadcast originating from New York -- devoted a few minutes to describe what I am trying to do, and ended up by saying, "We wish him good luck."

I am overwhelmed by the mail that pours in. Mrs. Ruth Adams, who recently looked through my accumulated mail, estimates that we have about 400 hard-and-fast pledges of 2 percent so far, and indications of many more.

A sample of the more interesting letters is available at the offices of Feld, Hogness and Owen Chamberlain. It can also be obtained from me.

The present disorderly procedures might yield us 1,000 or perhaps 2,000 pledges, and the interest manifested so far is sufficient to set up the Council. I presume, however, that the Council would want to identify perhaps 25,000 people by name who would pledge 2 percent of their income, before setting up the political organization that would give advice and guidance to those who pledge 2 percent of their income. For this purpose the Council might need \$25,000 to \$50,000 "seed money."

Groups have sprung up spontaneously in support of the "Movement" around the Austen-Riggs Center in Stockbridge, Mass., as well as around the University of Connecticut at Storrs, Conn., and I have met with some members of these groups in New York at the apartment of Arthur Penn, a Broadway director. We discussed the possibility of obtaining "seed money" for the Council by holding in New York and perhaps in Hollywood \$300-a-plate dinners for 12 to 15 guests each. Mr. Arthur Penn, who would be in charge of this operation in New York, has the names of 8 persons who have volunteered to act as hosts for one dinner each.

I am being approached by representatives of the Methodist Church and the Society of Friends, and I shall discuss with them how to reach those of their members who are interested and who might want to pledge 2 percent of their income.

* * *

Leo Szilard
Hotel Dupont Plaza
Washington 6, D. C.
Telephone: HUDson 3-6000

February 28, 1962

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed you will find a memo on the "Responses To Date."

If we just sit back at this point we will probably gradually accumulate 2 percent pledges of between 1,000 and 2,000. The question is, could we at this point go further and identify perhaps 25,000 virtual members of the Movement, pledging 2 percent of their incomes for campaign contributions. If that is done, we would be in business and we would then have to set up the Lobby to give guidance and counsel to the members of the Movement.

How do we bridge the gap between 1,000 and 25,000 pledges?

In order to do this we must be in a position to disclose the identity of the Council and its Political Advisors, and we must have some "seed money" to get started. My own guess is that we might have to spend \$2.00 per pledge, which means we ought to have at the outset about \$50,000 "seed money" and preferably more.

We could presumably raise this amount by going back to those whose pledges we have and ask them to give us this year perhaps 1 percent of their income to get the Council started. We could also try to raise the "seed money" through small dinners, at \$300 a plate, in New York and perhaps also in Beverly Hills.

In either case it would be necessary to disclose the identity of the Council and its Political Advisors. The Council need not go into operation, however, until we have actually collected an adequate amount of "seed money."

With the above aim in view I am now grappling with the problem of guessing who the Council and its Political Advisors might be. The problem is somewhat similar to the problem of "the hen or the egg," because I cannot ask anybody to serve without telling them who the others may be who have agreed to serve. Also, both the Board of Directors of the Council and the Panel of Advisors of the Council would have to be formally elected by the Fellows of the Council, and while I may make suggestions to the Fellows I can neither make the decision for them nor predict with assurance what their decision would be.

The attached memorandum entitled "The Next Step" is an attempt to solve this insoluble problem, and my request to you is that you read it and return it to me with your comment. I particularly need to have your comment as far as

it relates to your own role. I need to know whether you would be willing to be part of this operation, and want to play the role which I tentatively have assigned to you in the attached "Next Step" or some other role, and if so, which one.

If you are willing to be part of this operation, will you please send me a very short statement about yourself to be included in a "Who's Who" to be improvised and to be used in raising the "seed money" either from those who pledged 2 percent of their income, or from those who may attend \$300-a-plate dinners.

It is important that the operation of the Council be successful from the outset and we would need an Executive Officer to take over from me very soon, probably even before the Council is incorporated. Until such time as the Council assumes responsibility, such a man could operate in my name, but it is important that there should be no discontinuity and that he be able to carry on at least for a few months, on a temporary basis, after the Council takes over. I am looking around for someone who could fill this job.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Enclosures:

"The Next Step"

"Responses To Date"