

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

November 8, 1934

Dear Dr. Riefler:

After you have had a chance to reflect upon our talk at luncheon the other day, I wonder if it would be possible for you to come to Princeton at some convenient time and let me know how the matter then lies in your mind. I have of course no authority as yet to offer an appointment. The most that I can do is to make a recommendation to the Board. I realize that the process through which I am going resembles in a good many ways a courtship, the two parties to which feel their way before undertaking a final commitment. Only this business of recruiting a faculty involves more complete understanding between the two parties in interest since there are no divorce courts which may undo alliances that turn out to be misfits! I am therefore most anxious that you and I should completely understand one another. I can promise you, however, that even if you are favorable to the idea, I shall not mention it to the Board unless I assure myself in advance that they will approve anything that you and I may come to agree upon.

I am likely to be here almost continuously. If Saturday is a less hectic day with you than a week-day, perhaps you could come to Princeton some Saturday afternoon, spend the night, and get back to Washington at a comfortable hour on the following Sunday afternoon or evening.

With all good wishes to you and your wife,

Ever sincerely,

Dr. Winfield W. Riefler
34 Malvern Avenue, Cherrydale, Va.

*Sunday the 18th I am engaged, but
I am free the 17th & Sunday 18th up to 10 from my office*

Abraham Flexner

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December 17, 1934

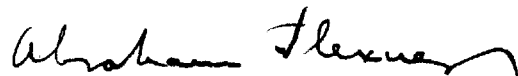
Dear Dr. Riefler:

I am coming down to Washington Thursday, arriving there sometime in the early afternoon. I shall be in Washington Thursday and Friday.

I have had another talk with Walter Stewart, and I now have a proposition which I should like to lay before you. We could meet at tea Thursday afternoon or at lunch on Friday or at any other hour that suits your convenience. Would you wire me at this address, so that I may make my appointments accordingly?

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Winfield W. Riefler
Room 7219, Commerce Building
Washington, D.C.

AF:ESB

January 7, 1935

Dear Dr. Flexner:

My resignation has at last been accepted to take effect when my successor has been appointed and qualified. I am naturally pushing to get this appointment made as soon as possible.

Under the circumstances, I feel it would be best for the Institute to go ahead with my appointment next Monday, to take effect as soon as I am released from my duties here.

I am looking forward to this release and our subsequent venture with greater eagerness every day. I will let you know just as soon as I am completely free.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

January 11, 1935

Dear Mr. Flexner:

I have cleared the matter with the President and it will be perfectly proper for you to make the announcement of my appointment on Monday.

I am still pushing for my successor to be appointed. I think the announcement may serve to hasten the day. I am anxious to get past the strain of waiting during these last days as quickly as possible.

Your solicitude for our comfort touches me deeply. It is a long time since I have enjoyed a relationship as sensitive as that. I know that we shall be happy.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

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MRS. FELIX FULD

January 15, 1935

Dear Dr. Riefler:

I found your letter of the 11th waiting for me when I returned from Florida after a ten day rest in the sun, which did me a world of good.

The Board met yesterday and approved your appointment. This morning I wired you as follows:

"Board of Trustees ratified with great enthusiasm your appointment yesterday on basis upon which we had agreed Letter follows"

In all probability the first announcement regarding the School of Economics and Politics will be made tomorrow.

Some time after your successor is appointed, when you and your wife would like a week-end in Princeton, taking your ease and perhaps making a preliminary survey, Mrs. Flexner and I would be delighted to have you as our guests.

I hope that once you are free from the terrific pressure under which you have been working you will sit back and, as Walt Whitman says, "loaf and enjoy your soul."

With all good wishes and great satisfaction that things have turned out as they have, I am

Dr. Winfield Riefler
Room 7219, Commerce Building
Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Flexner
(see next page.)

P. S. Since dictating the above I have had luncheon with the leading professors in the field of economics here in order that they might know from me the steps we have taken before seeing it in the newspapers tomorrow. I told them that I hoped that we should have in the near future a building something analagous to Fine Hall, provided with studies and proper facilities for really advanced workers and for research, accumulating a specialized library as we went on. They asked me to say to you and to Earle and Mitrany that they are delighted with the prospect of developing here at Princeton a center for disinterested higher thinking and research in the field of economics and politics.

Subsequently I had a talk with Eisenhart, Dean of the Graduate School, who has been helpful and generous beyond words from the very beginning of the Institute, and who is indeed largely responsible for the coöperation which has been so effective between ^{the} Princeton and the Institute mathematicians. Eisenhart dwelt upon a problem with which I am quite familiar from my work in medical education, namely, that the men who work in fields so near to industry and banking may be diverted by practical jobs from the pursuit of real thinking. I told him that I thought it was our purpose to provide against this danger - and I hoped that Princeton could work itself into the same position - by providing opportunities for persons on the staff of the School of Economics to do such work elsewhere as is really essential to them; to provide them with comfortable salaries and the assurance of a retiring allowance which would take care, in comfort and dignity, of both themselves and their children. Eisenhart cited some quite demoralizing examples in other institutions, with which you are doubtless familiar, and is hopeful that the ideals of the Institute may react favorably both upon Princeton and other institutions throughout the country. We can certainly do no more important service.

u. J.

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“Expansion.” *The Princetonian* (Princeton, NJ), January 16, 1935.

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LIFE TRUSTEES
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MRS. FELIX FULD

January 21, 1935

Dear Dr. Riefler:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of the nineteenth to Mr. Frankfurter. There is not the faintest possibility that your status or standing will be in any wise reconsidered except, as I hope, to your ultimate advantage.

Frankfurter has simply had a brain-storm, not, I regret to say, the first, but the last. Professor Veblen, who was present at the meeting and to whom he also wrote, has come to see me and has described Frankfurter's conduct as "outrageous." This morning I have a letter from one of the members of the Board, from which I quote the following:

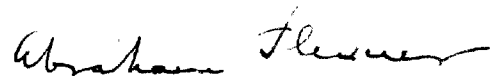
"I was surprised that Frankfurter should have displayed such bad taste at the last meeting. There is no question but that he was absolutely wrong in his contention."

I hope that you will dismiss the matter from your mind and under no circumstances permit Frankfurter to inveigle you into a correspondence. I feel ashamed that any such incident should have marred the beginning of your connection with the Institute. It is the only thing of the kind that has ever happened and has shocked everyone who witnessed it as much as it disturbed you, but you need not fear its recurrence.

With all good wishes and warm regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Dr. Winfield W. Riefler
Office of the Economic Adviser
Room 7219, Commerce Building
Washington, D. C.



COPY

January 22, 1935

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am enclosing copies of subsequent correspondence with Mr. Frankfurter. It seems to me that this buries the whole incident and that so far as I am concerned we can forget it.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) Winfield W. Riefler

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

January 22, 1935

Dear Mr. Frankfurter:

It is my turn to thank you for your cordial note of January 21. It dispels any apprehensions that I felt. I am eager for an opportunity to talk over plans for the new School with you.

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Felix Frankfurter
Law School
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Law School of Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass.

January 21, 1955.

My dear Riefler:

Thank you for your letter of the nineteenth.

My letter meant to imply no more than it actually said. There is no question whatever as to your "status," nor the eagerness with which I, in common with the rest of the Board, voted for your election. The views I expressed in my letter were solely my own, and were conveyed to you, as I stated in my letter, because I thought that candor as to a matter effecting you was called for between you and me.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fred Ramegualto". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Fred Ramegualto".

Dr. Winfield W. Riefler

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LIFE TRUSTEES
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MRS. FELIX FULD

January 19, 1935

Dear Dr. Riefler:

I received this morning a copy of a note which Professor Frankfurter wrote you. Unfortunately Professor Frankfurter, while expressing his own views, does not tell the whole truth. The Board was practically a unit against him. In the School of Mathematics there are salary differences at every stage from the assistants up to the very top.

This is not the first time that Frankfurter has violated the semi-confidential nature of a Board meeting. I hope you will not permit yourself to be in the slightest degree disturbed. Your associates are perfectly happy, and I am enclosing you a copy of a letter which I received yesterday from the Princeton social science group.

We look forward to a visit from you and your wife in the near future and beyond that to a happy and scholarly association for many years to come.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Winfield Riefler
Office of the Economic Adviser
Room 7219, Commerce Building
Washington, D. C.

AF:ESB

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Princeton New Jersey

Department of Economics and Social Institutions

January 16, 1935

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

The senior members of the Department of Economics and Social Institutions of Princeton University wish to express to you, and through you to the Trustees of The Institute for Advanced Study, their appreciation of your decision to establish in Princeton the School of Economics and Politics, announcement of which appears this morning in the press. That the present memorandum is informal rather than official does not at all indicate that as a departmental group we are lacking in appreciation of the importance to Princeton University of this new development. Rather, we feel that our informality in this memorandum is quite in accord with the informality of intercourse which, in the interest of sound scholarship of the highest order, it is hoped will develop between members of the new School of Economics and Politics and members of the appropriate departments of Princeton University. It hardly needs to be said that the presence of the School of Economics and Politics of the Institute for Advanced Study should have a stimulating effect upon the scholarly work of our own staff, and we hope that we shall be able to contribute in some measure toward the attainment of the ideals of the new project.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

E. W. KEMMERER
FRANK D. GRAHAM
JAMES G. SMITH
C. R. WHITTLESEY

(Signed)

DAVID A. McCABE
FRANK HAIGH DIXON
STANLEY E. HOWARD
J. DOUGLAS BROWN

January 19, 1935

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Enclosed is a copy of my response to Mr. Frankfurter. It has been greatly modified from what I had in mind by our telephone conversation. I still have difficulty in understanding the occasion for the episode.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

January 19, 1935

Dear Mr. Frankfurter:

Your letter of January 16 has disturbed me greatly though I respect the frankness which impelled you to write. If there is any question of my status or standing I would prefer the Board to reconsider the whole matter as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your good wishes. I know that we have an unparalleled opportunity in the new School. I am still so tied emotionally to public service that I am not yet in a position to be entirely objective about the situation.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Felix Frankfurter^{NY}
Law School
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

to School of Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass.

January 16, 1935.

My dear Riefler:

Ever since I have been on this faculty, for now a little over twenty years, it has been my practice to tell acquaintances whose names have come up for our consideration directly what doubts or difficulties I may have had to raise in faculty meeting. This avoids misunderstanding through the dangers of misreport, however innocent through indirect transmission. That practice of candor seems to me equally appropriate for you and me in the case of the Institute of Advanced Study.

Therefore, I should like you to know that I welcomed your accession to the Institute and voted for it with pleasure and hope. But I voted against the stipend proposed by Dr. Flexner, not because it was too high, but because it was higher than that given to your colleagues in the School of Politics and Economics. For I deem inequality of treatment among men of substantially similar age and scholarly distinction as inimical to the aims of a society of scholars. This is not the occasion to argue the matter, I simply wanted you to know precisely what my attitude was towards your coming to the Institute and to the conditions of your coming.

If you have to leave government -- I cannot conceal my regret that you are doing so, in view of my great interest in a permanent civil service -- I am at least happy that you are giving yourself to scholarship.

With all good wishes,

Very sincerely yours,



Dr. Winfield W. Riefler

February 14, 1935

Dear Dr. Flexner:

The severance of my official connections here has finally been ironed out and my resignation has been accepted as of February 15, 1935. I would appreciate it if my accession to the staff of the Institute for Advanced Study is made as of the same date.

We have had some further inkling of the Howard situation from the newspapers. You know you have our sympathies.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

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LIFE TRUSTEES
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MRS. FELIX FULD

February 15, 1935

Dear Dr. Riefler:

I have your kind note of February 14. With your permission we will fix the date of your accession to the staff of the Institute at February 1, 1935. You will receive your first salary check towards the end of the month less 5% that you will pay to the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America towards your retiring allowance, the Institute paying an equal sum in addition thereto. I am sending you the papers which are to be filled out and returned to us.

I feel the greatest satisfaction not only in your joining the Institute formally but in your release from the heavy burdens which you have been carrying for some years past. I hope that you can learn how to relax and let your mind lie fallow. You are just at the age when freedom from responsibility will mean most to your future development.

When the weather improves, we look forward to having you and your wife come to Princeton for a week-end, but for the moment everything is so messy that it would be no fun.

Thank you for your reference to the Howard situation. There have been very unpleasant personal questions in the Board from the outset. I managed to get rid of some of them and to softpedal others, but in consequence of a slip

Dr. Riefler

February 15, 1935

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the torrents were unloosed at the meeting last Friday, and I felt that the thing was costing me more than it was worth.

Please give my greetings to your wife, and believe me, with all good wishes,

Sincerely your friend,

Dr. Winfield W. Riefler
Room 7219, Commerce Building
Washington, D. C.



AF:ESB



Jan. 8/38

Dear Mr. Riefler:

I have just ^{received} a wire from my Secretary giving me the substance of your letter. I am extremely happy that you have decided to cast your lot with us and look forward confidently to the future. May I ask you to let me know whether an announcement in the press can be made after the Board meeting or whether you would prefer ~~to postpone~~ to postpone it until your successor has been found? I shall be in Princeton again by Saturday - so please write me there.

Give my best wishes to your wife & tell her that we shall do everything in our power to make you both and

Your children Lorry & Princeton.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Abraham Thayer

Heedman 1037

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LIFE TRUSTEES

LOUIS BAMBERGER

MRS. FELIX FULD

May 3, 1937

Dear Win:

I was very happy to receive your note of April 18 and to learn that you had had a smooth crossing. I hope you and Mynors had a lovely time and did not talk too much about Eccles, Roosevelt, the Supreme Court, the Federal Reserve, the gold standard, and other forbidden topics.

I was greatly distressed to learn that Mynors' father had died during his last week here. It was quite heroic that he carried on until he left as bravely as he did.

You and Mynors missed some of the most beautiful weather that God Almighty ever created this side of heaven. It has been absolutely superb, beginning the day after the garden party, which had, alas! to be held indoors, but was a great success nonetheless. Everybody came and stayed and absolutely cleaned us out of sandwiches, cake, punch, and all other refreshments. The famine would of course have occurred earlier in the afternoon if you and Mynors had been on hand.

We have seen Dorothy several times since you left. Her domestic problems have been a good deal complicated by the two rabbits, but they are just exactly what she needs in order to keep her from bemoaning your absence. Saturday evening she came to a dinner we gave for Madariaga, and, as you will not be

surprised to hear, she was the only woman there whose talk was on a level with that of Corwin, Dodds and Madariaga himself. I am more and more beginning to wonder whether we should not have made Dorothy a professor and allowed you to stay at home to care for the boys, the household, and the rabbits. It is up to you to convince me to the contrary.

Mrs. Flexner is fine and we get excellent news from Jean and Eleanor. Mrs. Bailey continues to preserve her wonted equilibrium, but Miss Eichelser is as jittery as Henry Morgenthau. She is sailing for her first European trip next Saturday a week, and between getting together her trousseau, letter of credit, passport, and reading guide books, she is becoming increasingly useless as a member of the office staff.

Earle has been down here since you left. His doctor assures me that he is perfectly well, and though he is taking things easy there is not a thing about him, either in appearance or in what he says, to suggest that he was ever ill. We had a good talk Saturday afternoon about some work in which he is interested - important work on which his mind has been playing for years.

The Institute - men, women and children - join in wishing you the best of health, an easy time, and a safe return.

Ever sincerely,

W. J.

Professor Winfield W. Riefler
c/o Finance Committee
League of Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

AF/MCE

P.S. Since dictating the above I have received yours of April 4. I am very happy that you have found the situation improved in London. Geneva I know well and it is, as you say, a lovely situation. Don't leave it without having made a tour of the lake and having seen Vevey and Montreux, etc. Many years ago,

W. W. R.

May 3, 1937

- 3 -

when Anne and I first visited Geneva, I was walking along the street and passed a most inviting bakery. I went in and bought a small cherry pie, came out and ate it sitting on the curbstone. That is one of my most vivid, as it is one of my earliest recollections of the place.

Meritt and Johnnie told me yesterday that they are expecting bids today.

The enclosed is a copy of a note which I received this morning from Governor Norman.

A. F.

COPY

Bank of England

26th April 1937

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Mynors has returned from his stay at the Institute full of the kindness which he received at your hands. His three months with Dr. Riefler appear to have given him an ideal introduction to the American scene and many of its most interesting personalities. I should like to thank you most sincerely for making his visit to the United States so valuable and so enjoyable.

With kind regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) M. C. Norman

Dr. Abraham Flexner

Fleyn 5113

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HONORARY TRUSTEES
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Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 10, 1937

Dear Riefler:

I have had several talks with Tom Jones on the subject of economics. I don't know whether you know that he was at one time Professor of Economics at the University of Glasgow. That was of course in the beginning of his career. Since he went to London to be Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet at the beginning of the war, he has had over a period of more than twenty years close contact with the British economists. He knows intimately Keynes, Clay, Pigou, Robbins, Leith-Ross, Norman, etc. I have asked him who, in his opinion, is the ablest economist of the whole group. He replied without a moment's hesitation, "Leith-Ross", who, as you doubtless know, is financial adviser to the Treasury. I asked him about Clay. He thinks that Clay is in capacity not superior to a good university professor. Leith-Ross he regards as a man with a really first-rate mind, with a great personality, and fertile in ideas. Of course, he did not know that I was thinking of anyone in particular for Princeton. He did, however, feel strongly that we should develop the subject in the very near future in the way in which we have developed mathematics in order that there might be somewhere in this world a great economic center of thinkers such as does not now exist anywhere. Do you and Stewart know Leith-Ross and, if so, what is your own opinion as to the way he would measure up as against the other persons named?

I don't want to bother you with letters, but it won't hurt you to

drop me a line on this subject, I hope.

I understand that Miss Wise, tired of waiting for her errant chief, has eloped to England, but, as one might well know, she has eloped alone just the way you did, and she will probably come home in six weeks as homesick as you did.

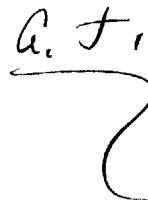
Leidesdorf's son was not admitted to the University of Pennsylvania. I wonder if you heard from Willits any particulars or whether he exerted himself in the matter. Do you know the School of Business Administration at Dartmouth? If so, do you know anyone in it? I am going to drop a line to Earle, who is in that neighborhood, and he may wangle a place there for the Leidesdorf boy.

We have a full house at the moment. Here is the roster: Jean and Paul, Eleanor, T.J., Mr. Orrick of the Oxford Press, Vera Caspar (scenario writer), Franz Spielman (Viennese architect), and the inevitable Mrs. Bailey; also, the two maids from Tuskegee, Robert the chauffeur from Honolulu, and two dogs (curses!); but the list will begin to melt away at the end of this week.

I hope all goes well with the Riefler household. Did Stewart turn up? If so, did you make any progress? Write me ever so briefly on these points.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,



Mr. Winfield W. Riefler

Orleans, Massachusetts

AF:ESB

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HONORARY TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 5, 1937

Dear Win:

Yours of July 28 came to camp while I was paying a week's visit to Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld. They are both well and enjoying the quiet and beauty of the great St. Lawrence which their hotel overlooks. I had previously sent them at Mr. Bamberger's request a memorandum which you will see later - I don't want to bother you with it now - outlining the future of the Institute, as I now see it, subject, of course, to such changes as experience and wisdom suggest.

I put in the very first place the development of the School of Economics and Politics. They were very much pleased with the whole memorandum and told me to go ahead. I am therefore enormously interested in your feeling that Stewart may be "in the mood to drop Case Pomeroy and come with us". If he has paid you the promised visit, let me know whether this subject came up and, if so, how it stands.

Meanwhile, thank you very much for writing in behalf of Mr. Leidesdorf to Joe Willits.

I am glad that you are rid of Washington and Princeton for the time being, and I do hope that you will give your family a chance to become acquainted with you. You have some nice traits, about which your Deezie has probably forgotten if she ever knew. The mental picture of her jumping over the saw horses greatly intrigues me. We shall make that a feature of our next Institute dance.

We have at the moment a full household: Tom Jones, who is spending a month, Jean and Paul, Eleanor, Orrick of the Oxford Press, the inevitable E.S.B., and the equally inevitable A.F. Anne, alas, deserted and left for Salzburg yesterday. She was torn two ways, but Salzburg won, and I am glad it did, for it is the one great dissipation of her life, and I do not begrudge it to her.

Give my love to Dorothy and the boys, and believe me

Ever sincerely,

A. J.

Mr. Winfield W. Riefler
Orleans, Massachusetts
U.S.A.

AF:ESB

Orleans, Mass.,
July 28, 1937.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

This is a fine time to be answering your nice letter of the 19th. My tardiness, however, has not applied to the Leidesdorf matter. As soon as I received your letter I wrote Jo Willits quite strongly and trust that he has done his best. I have not heard from him but I should think that a question of this kind would cause little difficulty. I agree with you that Mr. Leidesdorf is practically a saint, and I am glad to do anything that I possibly can for him.

Miss Wise writes me that our house is under way. I was so very busy trying to handle international financial troubles in Washington without losing entire contact with my family at Cape Cod that I did not have time to fuss with it any more, so I signed the contract and told them to go ahead. This past week I have looked over the final plans more carefully and have decided that the last changes were all to the good. They include some gains as well as losses and bring about a saving of nearly \$2000. Now I want to forget about it until it is finished but I know I will not be able to.

After my telephone conversation with you I flew to New York and saw Walter Stewart. It certainly seemed to me that he was in the mood to drop Case Pomeroy and come with us. He was about to leave on vacation so I have not heard from him since. However, he promised to come and visit us here at Orleans during the last week in July. He said he was going on a sea trip with a friend of his who owned a yacht and

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
July 19, 1937

Dear Win:

I have been wondering where you have been and what you have been doing, and I suppose Dorothy is as much in the dark about your comings and goings and doings as I am - poor girl! What a different man you would have been if you had married Anne, and what a different man I would have been if I had married Dorothy! I would have expanded and you would have contracted. Is it too late to arrange a swap? But it will have to be managed with diplomacy.

I am moved particularly to write you this morning, not because I am domestically unhappy, which is not the case, nor because I think Dorothy is domestically unhappy, which I am sure she is not, but because Mr. Leidesdorf came into the office the other day to renew a subject which he had broached to me several times, but not definitely. He has a boy, Arthur, a fine, upstanding, husky fellow, who was graduated in June from Blair Academy and hopes now to prepare himself to go into his father's business - one of the most important of its kind in the east. For that purpose the boy wants to go to the Wharton School at Pennsylvania. It is so late in the season that I am afraid an ordinary application may receive little attention, and I suggested to Mr. Leidesdorf that you might have some influence with Young or Williams which would result in the boy's admission. He is a good boy and his father is as near a saint as anyone I know - a wise, unselfish and absolutely upright human being, doing business of a most responsible character with some of the largest and most influential concerns in New York. If you can take this up promptly with Williams or

Young and find a place for the boy, won't you write Mr. Leidesdorf the results of your efforts to his office, Pershing Square Building, New York City?

We have been very happy up here this summer. The weather has been really superb and as I dictate I look out upon a mirror-like lake, in which the heavens are duplicated. Morse has been up for a week and is quite mad about the place. We are going to give you and Dorothy a chance, but there will be a time limit and you will have to say "yes" or "no", no matter whether the Treasury wants to see you or not. If Morgenthau can take his whole darned family and go to Honolulu you can either stay at Orleans or come to Ahmic.

I see Ben daily. Chancellor Kirkland has been quite ill and there is grave doubt as to whether he will come up this summer. Elizabeth was summoned by telegraph a week ago. Ben is restless and unhappy, but he was pleased the other day when I received a letter from a Greek scholar in Athens, asking to come to Princeton to work with Ben. Of course, we will take him the year after next, when he wishes to come.

Anne is perfectly splendid, frisking about like a young girl, swimming, singing, and carrying on as if she were twenty-one, which I sometimes suspect she is. She joins me in love to you and Dorothy and the boys.

Ever affectionately,

Professor Winfield W. Riefler
Orleans, Cape Cod
Massachusetts

AF/MCE

A. T.
*How about (1) the house?
(2) Skemmark?*

February 2, 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have read Stuart Chase's article "Word-Trouble Among the Economists" in the December Harvard. In general I think I like it. Also, I think I agree with it. The hesitation which I feel in committing myself thus in words arises largely, I suppose, from the irritation of a specialist reading the works of a popularizer. To me the contents are not new. They are essentially what I learned when I first tackled economics in my freshman and sophomore years at Amherst. I think it is true that other places did not then put so much emphasis on being critical of one's preconceptions. I had imagined that this deficiency had generally been rectified in the interval, but it may be that these things still merit reiteration. Personally I have always tried to keep in mind the fact that the words we use are likely to be more general than is justified by the specific subjects of which we are speaking and that I should always try to confine my generalizations to my specific subject, insofar as possible. I am also aware that I frequently fail myself in this regard and that like Chase I am inclined to charge my colleagues when I disagree with them with similar failure.

My own feeling about the whole subject is as follows. Words at their best are elusive and never furnish a completely satisfying medium for expressing our thoughts. They are, nevertheless, the best mechanism of communication which we possess. It is essential that their limitations be borne in mind. Among the various attributes of a scholar -- creativeness, integrity, objectivity, disinterestedness -- self-criticism and consciousness of one's hidden assumptions must also be given a very high rank. I am sure that this quality or attribute of scholarship is very old and can be found as a characteristic distinguishing the better from the poorer scholar since time immemorial. At the present time we are witnessing an attempt to bring this old and important characteristic out into the open by giving it a new name. The group whom Stuart Chase has joined call it "semantics" and insist that scientific terms must be defined in terms of "referents". The justification for doing this is that words will be used with greater precision. I am sure that such

precision is a desirable objective, but I don't know whether the net result of their efforts will contribute to that end or will simply raise another series of controversies over unessentials. Certainly if economists begin arguing whether there are or are not "referents" for some concept they are using, they will find themselves in the same mire from which the "semantic" school proposes to extract them.

Sincerely yours, -

Winfield W. Stefler

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N. J.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

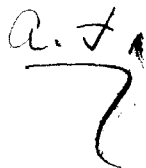
January 29, 1938

Dear Win:

Mr. Maass is greatly impressed by Mr. Stuart Chase's article in the December Harpers which I am herewith sending to you. Glance through it, and send me, if you please, a paragraph or two telling me what you think of it. It seems to me no new thing that words should be used loosely, for, as conditions change, people do not stop to invent new words but put new meanings into the old ones. This it seems to me Chase does not take into adequate consideration. Am I right or wrong?

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Winfield W. Riefler
69 Alexander Street
Princeton, New Jersey



AF:ESB

ABRAHAM FLECKNER
MAGNETAWAN, VIA BURKS FALLS
ONTARIO, CANADA

July 18, 1938

Dear Win:

Your letter of July 14, from Orleans, crossed mine. It is extraordinarily interesting, especially what you say of the way the League has recouped its influence in one direction after losing influence in another.

As to the further organization of the economics group, I think we must get together and talk. I want to do what is wise and right and sound, but, at the moment what I want and need is rest after a strenuous European trip, and leisure to think very calmly. You may be right on every point you make, but, naturally, I should wish to hear what Stewart and perhaps Clay and Wolman and Warren think. Your attitude is a most generous one - marvelously so, but I don't want to take you up on it until we have all had a chance to canvass the thing, for when we act we cannot undo our decisions.

Now let us chuck the whole business for the next six weeks or so. Go ahead with your fishing and woodsawing while I go ahead with mine. Remake the acquaintance of your family, and pride yourself upon your success as a matchmaker.

With love to you all,

Ever sincerely,

A. F.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
MAGNETAWAN, VIA BURKS FALLS
ONTARIO, CANADA

July 16, 1938

Dear Win:

I had yesterday morning a letter from Mr. Stewart, from which I quote the following:

"We arrived this morning via Normandie after a strenuous but satisfactory visit.

"I am wondering if you received a cable I sent from London which was to have been delivered to you on your arrival. It read, "My answer is yes - wholeheartedly and without reservation, and I am delighted to have made the decision."

I cannot tell you how grateful I feel and how profoundly I am moved by this evidence of his confidence and faith, for he has brooded long over his decision and, fortunately, it is a decision which rewards your patience and mine. I am not often stirred as this letter has stirred me, so that for the moment I shall say no more than that, for the sake of the subject in which you are interested, for your own sake, and for the sake of the Institute, I am very, very happy.

You have been long-suffering, but now at last you have your reward in the close association which you will have with your teacher and friend, whom you love and trust and admire.

Let us now show the same patience in the further steps we take as we have shown in the steps we have taken up to this time. It is so important not to make a mistake that we must look at every proposal from every point of view and act only after the deepest reflection of which we all may be capable.

Should I hear further from Mr. Stewart I will let you know. Meanwhile drop me a line if you find time to let me know

how the work at Geneve fared and how you and Dorothy and the children are.

We are all well and enjoying perfectly superb weather. Anne is particularly happy because she is engaged in putting up a new cabin in the woods, in which we hope you and Dorothy will some day pay us a visit.

Ever affectionately,

Abraham Stearns

P. S. The cablegram to which Stewart refers never reached me, so that I did not know of his decision until his letter, written after his return, came to Canada.

A. F.

Orleans, Massachusetts
July 14, 1938

Dear Dr. Flaxner:

The four of us arrived Monday on the NORMANDIE. To my utter surprise Dorothy was waiting on the dock. She would not even let me go to Princeton to drop my luggage, but took me right up to the Cape where I found Miss Wise and had a welcome home such as no man ever experienced before.

It was a grand trip. I have been here two days now and feel as though Europe did not exist. In fact I have fallen so completely under the spell of the Cape that last night when I dressed and drove twenty-five miles to Hyannis to go to New York to a meeting at the National Bureau I found out only after arriving at a dark station that there is no way of getting off of the Cape on Wednesday evenings unless one walks.

The sessions of the Delegation on Business Depressions at Geneva were the high spot of my trip. We had four days of discussion that were as fine and on as high a level as anything I have ever experienced. At the last minute Carter Goodrich was appointed a delegate to present the International Labor Office and he felt the same about them. The fact that the League has lost political influence seems to have thrown it back on the one asset left, namely its ability to serve as an intellectual center. In this case it seems to be reaching the level of a super-university. Everyone was extremely enthusiastic and I am looking forward to my participation in the undertaking with great anticipation.

I learned from Stewart of his cable to you on my arrival in Paris on the day before we sailed. It was grand news and took a terrific load off my heart. Stewart reported that Clay was certainly going to leave the Bank and had almost made up his mind to come with us, but that he was holding off fearing that it was too great a sacrifice for Mrs. Clay. The final word will come in the autumn. I called up Clay from Paris to say goodbye and add a warm word of welcome and found him still in about the same mood. He was terribly moved and certainly seemed as though he was going to come with us. He repeated, however, that he would let us know definitely in the autumn as he had promised you.

In his case I feel strongly that we do not want to urge him to tear up his roots in England or emphasize the separation. Rather, I feel we ought to emphasize with him the continuity that coming to us would mean in his work. There is no danger with respect to Clay that he will be unfamiliar with the American situation or fail to identify himself with American problems. He has always been sympathetic with Americans. He says himself that his best friends are Americans and he has tried to introduce into British economics the same approach, i.e., the studying of questions from a factual basis that Stewart and I have been identified with in this country. These factors are so real that they seem decisive in his case. On the other hand, his continued close contact with Europe and British economics is one of the big assets which he would bring to the Institute. In the first place he is now thoroughly familiar with the factual work recently done in England (such as that now being inaugurated on a larger basis by Hall and Beveridge) as few are. This is because he has been one of the main factors in starting work of this character. We need to know intimately what they are developing and we need to keep in contact with it. Clay is now in a position to do this for us as no one else is and I think we should urge him to remain familiar with it. Secondly, there has in recent years been a great flowering of theoretical economics in England, some of it of a very high quality. The main trouble with it from the American point of view is that it has been so filled with controversy that frequently Americans have difficulty distinguishing between contributions which are basic and distortions of emphasis that represent little more than the heat and fire of a controversial situation. Clay is the one leading British economist who has remained friendly with all of the groups. He has also continually tried to sift out that which they had to give which represented a real contribution from that which was ephemeral. We want him to bring this wisdom to us, we want him to be in a position to continue to bring it as time goes on.

I saw a great deal of Kolman and Warren and Stewart together on the boat coming home and feel that you should seriously consider adding Kolman as well as Warren to the group. This differs radically from my original suggestions because at that time I was trying to work out a group which would be able to focus on all the varied problems of the economic scene from a rather unified point of view, mainly finance. It was from this point of view that I wrote the recommendations which I submitted to you. Personally, I still feel that those recommendations represent the most effective type of activity which we could undertake. It is now clear, however, that I failed to convince Stewart.

Dr. Flexner

-3-

July 14, 1938

Consequently I do not want to impede the setting up of an effective unit in economics by continuing to make recommendations in terms of an objective which has already been more or less passed by. The most important requirement after all is that the Institute possess a group that can work together effectively. If additional appointments are made in economics they should carry out this group idea, otherwise it would be better to turn the endowment to other uses. At present I think the most important thing we can do to this end is to make Stewart feel as happy as possible, to make him feel at home as much as we possibly can. I was continually struck on the boat coming home with how much more ready he was to enter into free and open economic discussions with Wolman than with anyone else with whom I have observed him in recent years. It made me realize as never before how much the interplay of his mind with Wolman's meant to him. If he is to work effectively again in our field, he simply must have this kind of interplay and I think we should do all we can to give it to him.

I am terribly disappointed to hear of Miss Bill's engagement. Somehow as we were extending invitations to the various eligible bachelors in Europe, I had in the background of my mind that we might arrange an international marriage, but now I understand that nothing is coming out but a cross between economics and engineering. That has happened several times already and doesn't excite me at all. Miss Wise reports, however, that we must be prepared for an inundation of applicants for the position. It seems that Alexander is beginning to acquire a reputation.

Please give my very best to Anne and tell her that we are waiting anxiously to see you all again.

Sincerely,

Dr. Abraham Flexner

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

July 6, 1938

Dear Win:

I received your very interesting letter of Monday the 27th - month unmentioned.

I am interested in Clay's toying with the idea of coming to America. If he does come, it seems to me that in a subject like economics he should come with the idea that America is going to get not the six months' regular term but that he is going to domesticate himself in America. I have this same feeling in regard to Mitrany, namely, that in subjects like political science and economics you have got to belong to the country in which you are a professor, though on the other hand I have an equally strong feeling that in neither of these subjects nor any other subjects ought a man cut himself away from his foreign connections. Mitrany, in my judgment - and I say this in confidence to you - has made a great mistake by spending six months in America and six months in England. He will never learn political theory or practice in America as long as he continues to do this. The same would hold of Clay. Where he takes a vacation of two or three months is immaterial, but home and work should, I believe, be America. He would undoubtedly be a tremendous asset to us, but he would have, I think, to identify himself with the country in order to realize his full potentialities. I wonder how you feel about this.

I had a busy week in Princeton after returning to America and then ran into a Fourth of July deadlock here in New York. Now I have finished my appointments and am ready to leave for Canada by tomorrow night. Anne preceded me by a day in order to have everything in good order for "her lord and master" just as Dorothy has done for you. Why don't these women strike?

Give our love and best wishes to Dorothy and the children and Miss Wise, if she is still at the Cape. I suppose she will have told you of the catastrophe that has overwhelmed Miss Guinn's successor. That room is haunted. I am trying to get Mrs. Bailey and Miss Eichelser to occupy it temporarily in order to take the curse off.

With all good wishes,

Ever affectionately,

G. F.

Mr. W. W. Riefler
Orleans
Massachusetts

AF:ESB

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 24, 1938

Dear Win:

I am dropping you a line to let you know that Stewart and Warren came up Monday afternoon to spend Tuesday and Wednesday at the camp. Stewart seems to me happier and younger than I have ever known him to be.

Warren's mind is moving slowly, but our long talks have convinced me that his intellect is a first-rate instrument. I have not pressed him or urged him but have tried to express the kind of thing the Institute is and the sort of opportunities it offers. Our conversations have been confined entirely to discussion of the Institute and the small but increased nucleus in the field of economics and discussion of possibilities of cooperation with the historians. You may be sure that we have reached no decisions and discussed nothing beyond what I have described above. All other questions will wait till you and Stewart and I can talk them over together. I told Stewart that I meant to write you, and he was glad to have me do it. He asked me to add that he would be glad to make a visit to the Cape, but the summer is passing rapidly, and he is doubtful whether he can make it.

We have had a perfect summer in point of weather and in every other respect except that for the first time we have had two accidents. Anne stumbled and broke a finger in two places, necessitating a journey to Toronto for Xray and a cast which she is still wearing. When Mrs. Bailey came to the camp on the 13th, it took her just about thirty-six hours to fall down three steps and break her leg in two places just above the ankle. Fortunately since Anne's accident we had learned that there was a thoroughly modern hospital at Parry Sound - forty miles from the camp, and she was that same evening brought here with Eleanor and the doctor. It is marvelous to find an institution of this kind in this remote corner. She has been absolutely comfortable since the bones were set, and repeated Xrays show that they are healing in proper position. Within another week we hope to be able to bring her back to the camp, where she will still, however, wear a light cast and hobble around on crutches.

Stewart and Warren drove with me this afternoon to see her, and Mrs. Bailey joins us all in warmest greetings to you and Dorothy and the boys.

Ever affectionately,

Winfield W. Riefler, Esq.
Orleans, Massachusetts
AF:ESB

A. J.

Flexner 37

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
MAGNETAWAN, VIA BURKS FALLS
ONTARIO, CANADA

August 7, 1939

Dear Win:

I have two letters from you, one written on the steamer and one from Cape Cod, dated August 1, enclosing your check for \$750.00. Thank you very much for the latter, though it will do me no good, inasmuch as I shall have to send it to the Princeton Bank, which will eat it up.

I am sorry that you will have had so soon to go back to New York. I do wish that you could get a continuous holiday. It seems to me that Dorothy's authority is very weak. If I proposed so soon after returning from Europe to go to New York Anne would be down on me like a thousand brick!

What you have heard of the fish is true, and I have a photograph to prove it. The fish weighed fourteen pounds, but it was not pulled out the water by the undersigned. Wes caught it trolling one night and made us a present of it. We have also got some smaller fry since this notable event.

I had supposed that you were busy on the boat, and I suppose that the same will continue to be true for years to come. Fortunately, you are a good swimmer, so that the worst that can happen to you - and it probably will - is that you will overturn the first time you venture out.

We have had an extremely quiet summer in most respects. Mrs. Bailey spent July here and a few days after she left Miss Eichelser came in looking very well, though in her camp clothes she is still something of a bean pole.

Meanwhile, I have spent a few days with Mr. Bamberger and Mrs. Fuld. We discussed the Princeton problem and Mr. Bamberger was disgusted when he heard from me for the first time that Veblen had called a dinner, of which I had no notice and to which I had not been asked. "That was very wrong," he said. I do not look forward to the coming year with the degree of pleasure with which I have always contemplated it. From time to time I have heard rumors of trouble among both the Trustees and the faculty. I have no appetite for a situation of this kind following the happy years which we have spent together there. Just what I shall do or how I am not yet clear, but I shall make up my mind, probably this week, and I shall let you know.

I enclose a letter which came from Jacobson. I am very much pleased with the high opinion which he formed of our economics group.

Anne is very well and she and Miss Eichelser join me in all good wishes for you and Dorothy and the boys.

Ever sincerely,

Professor Winfield W. Riefler
Orleans, Cape Cod
Massachusetts

A. F.

Flexner

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

(FOUNDED BY LOUIS BAMBERGER AND MRS. FELIX FULD, 1930)

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

October 11, 1939

Dear Win:

I want to thank you very deeply and genuinely for the brief but touching words you spoke on Monday. I was anxious that no one but my real friends should participate on that occasion, and through Mr. Houghton's sense of the fitness of things I had my way.

You are going to like Aydelotte, and I am only fearful that he will displace me in your affections. Don't let him do it, for I count on you and Dorothy and your children. In some way when you come to New York you must see to it that Anne and I know in advance so that as long as we live we shall not lose touch with one another. You have, all of you, places in my heart that shall not be occupied by anyone else.

So far as your boys are concerned, I hope you understand that I am willing to serve them and you and Dorothy in any capacity you wish, though I know full well that with care you are going to have a long career of usefulness and activity ahead of you, during which, however, if I can be of any service to them or you, you have only to say the word.

Ever affectionately,

A. F.

Sharp - 97.

The University of Chicago

The Law School

CHICAGO

November 4, 1939

Professor Winfield Riefler
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Win:

The excellent article by your colleague in the current New Republic reminded me again of your interest in related matters. It occurs to me you may have some interest in the enclosed talk, which I gave here last week under the auspices of a group which has been opposing repeal of the embargo. Don't bother to acknowledge or return it.

I am still hoping that sometime when I get East I shall find myself near you with time for some talk.

With best wishes,

MS:BPL


Malcolm Sharp

The University of Chicago

The Law School

CHICAGO

November 4, 1939

Professor Winfield Riefler
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

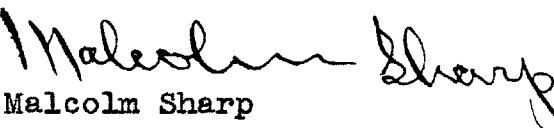
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With best wishes,

MS:BPL


Malcolm Sharp

The Psychology of Peace

1

In the present situation everyone here is concerned primarily with the security and peace of the United States. We are most of us indeed convinced that by keeping this country secure and strong, we shall best serve the interests of the world.

In determining how the interests of the United States can best be served, we are met with two results of the European situation. The first is the stimulation of our pride and our pugnacity. The second is fear. If we will look coolly at the occasions for pugnacity and fear, we shall prepare to consider how we can best advance American purposes.

For our pugnacity, we may reflect on the thousands of years during which Asiatic and European peoples have fought each other. To concentrate this reflection, I can think of nothing better than to reread Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War. That war is sometimes thought of as a conflict between the ideologies of democratic Athens and aristocratic Sparta. Thucydides himself sometimes speaks of it this way; but most of his observations and his entire account show something quite different. The expanding trade of Athens, which contributed to the city's magnificent artistic life, had collided with the trade of its near neighbors, Megara, Aegina, Sicyon, and Corinth. The extraordinary genius of Thucydides' observations is what chiefly distinguishes the resulting small and petty conflict from countless other such conflicts in the history of the world.

Though some have doubted it, Thucydides seems fully aware of the influence of trade and trade rivalries. But he attributes only part of the difficulty to them. They may supply the occasion and materials for fighting; but it is a vicious circle of animal fear and animal pride which leads the cities to destroy each other.

"Fear, pride and interest" appear again and again in the speeches which embody Thucydides' fiercely ironical reflections on the psychology of war. The first places are given to fear and pride.

Greece is one of the so-called Balkan states. Twenty-five hundred years have made little difference in Balkan affairs. Balkan and near Balkan conflicts still affect Europe as a whole, and so the world. Balkan mentality appears, moreover, to be European mentality; and it is against this mentality that we ourselves must be on guard.

For it may be that what appears to us as moral indignation is in part compounded of pride; and that pride, as George Bernard Shaw has recently suggested, is another name for animal pugnacity. To test our moral indignation, many of us continually recall the War of 1914. Much of the conflict leading up to that war centered in the Balkans, particularly the straits at Istanbul. It was perhaps a muddled and unsystematic conflict. We cannot too often remind ourselves that the German ambassador burst into tears as he handed the declaration of war to the Czar's minister. He had guessed wrong in advising his government that Russia would not back Serbia in her quarrel with the Austrian Empire. The conflict produced what is still the most disastrous war in history.

It was, we remember, a war to make the world safe for democracy,

and a war to end war. At its close, the principal states of Europe

proceeded, under the influence of interest, fear and pride, to conduct their affairs in a classically Balkan manner. So far from making the world safe for democracy, they saw to it that the world was quite unsafe for German social democracy. So far from making a rational and systematic effort to end war, they proceeded in a manner which, as their classical education should have told them, was best calculated to produce war.

By imposing on the prostrate German nation a reparations bill of some \$30,000,000,000 they contributed first to the devastating German inflation, and then to the economic collapse of the world. By humiliating a great people, trying at once to carry the burdens caused by the war and to establish a new form of government, they stimulated the passions which have always led to war. Poverty, insecurity, fear and pride, prepared the way for the aggressive National Socialism of today.

We may prefer the British and French ways of life to the German; but if we are going to be self-righteous about other nations, we must condemn the British and French for failing to apply the obvious teaching of history, at the same time that we condemn the Germans for following the course which comparable nations have taken throughout history. If we are to feel moral indignation and pride in our own position, we should perhaps distribute it well. We must be anti-British if we are also today anti-German.

2

So much as a suggestion for dealing with moral indignation, pride and pugnacity. How about "interest", and particularly the kind of interest which occasions "fear"? If we examine ourselves,

we shall hardly want to fight for merely business interests. We may fear German and Japanese competition; but we shall hardly favor dealing with it by a method which will run up such costs as appear in J. M. Clark's study, *The Costs of the World War to the American People*. Among other costs, Mr. Clark, by careful estimates, names as of 1931, 170,000 young Americans dead.

It is not so much commercial interests which concern us, as interests which, when apparently threatened, produce an even deeper fear. If Britain and France are defeated, are we not in danger of German ships and German planes? If we suppose that Canada would not follow England into captivity, and remember that prevailing winds blow from the West across the North Atlantic, we may be less concerned about the danger of an attack on Boston, New York or Washington.

But how about an attack based on present British or French possessions in Latin America; or based on Brazil, near the African Coast, whence trade winds blow for part of the year in a direction favorable to attack? We may take over British and French possessions to the South of us as payment for war debts or simply for their own protection and our security.

But Brazil remains. And there is always the chance that in the endless international chess game, Germany and Japan will again find their interests coinciding, and attack us from both directions.

In the various possible permutations and combinations of frightening circumstances, we may at first be cool. We may say, as George Bernard Shaw recently said of people who talk this way, "I can only say that they are frightened out of their wits." If we remember history, we shall doubt whether any nation is likely

to be strong enough to adventure all over the world on its own. We shall observe today that British, French and German fear of Russia is apparently a potent force for peace; and that on the other hand, Russian fear of a possible European combination may contribute to the caution with which Stalin moves. We may think that the Japanese at times wonder where and against whom they may next need support.

In spite of these reassuring reflections, there may remain a lively fear of the remote but distasteful possibility of military attack. As many, from Thucydides to Bertrand Russell, have considered fear among the most potent of the forces leading nations to fight, we may well examine this fear of military attack more carefully.

For this purpose, many have found Major George Fielding Eliot's *The Ramparts We Watch*, a helpful study of our military and particularly our naval position. It is a book which, just now in its fifth printing, gives the layman an introduction to the technical problems of geography and engineering which must be mastered by the experts who, in these matters, must furnish some of the materials for final decision to statesmen. For the citizen, Major Eliot's book appears to be the best guide available.

There is no opportunity in this place to consider his data. Two conclusions, however, should be considered. First, Major Eliot concludes that without first eliminating our fleet, no foreign country could now well send an expedition against a South American state. Second, he concludes that neither Americans nor Japanese in their senses, strategically speaking, would start a war between these two countries, involving aggressive operations across the Pacific.

Major Eliot is speaking of separate attacks, say by Germany or Japan; but his observations remind us of our strong defensive position. They should serve to recall that under any circumstances it will take a considerable period to put a German high commissioner in charge in Washington.

3

We may thus discount our impulsive pugnacity and fear. It is in its relation to these blind impulses here, that we are particularly concerned with the situation in Europe.

If one has the view which has been suggested in outline, what is he to say about our immediate course of action? I have been opposed to relaxing in any way, and in favor of all practicable proposals to strengthen, legislative limits on trade with belligerents, including Japan. It appears now, however, that along with measures to strengthen these limits there will be one more or less significant relaxation. It seems likely that the administration will be able to modify the so-called arms embargo, at least to the extent of permitting the shipment of multiple purpose airplanes to belligerents who are able to pay cash and carry them away.

In this situation, we who wished to see the efforts to remove the arms embargo defeated as a means of strengthening America's determination to stay out of this war, must take stock of our position. The debate, which threatened to be more dangerous than the proposed legislation itself, has gone better than one might have expected. There has been a minimum of war-like talk; and such a statement as that made the other evening over the air by Colonel Knox is an encouraging sign of our strong inclination to scrutinize

sceptically all proposals to get us to join this fight. It may be, indeed, that the general condemnation of the actual first step taken by Hitler in Poland, will somewhat work itself out in the course of changing legislation now commonly regarded as too favorable too Germany. Our mental state in relation to Europe may thus be fairly healthy; and we must try to keep it so.

It appears, again, that our technical position may be somewhat improved by modifying the embargo. It is apparently airplanes that are really wanted. If airplanes strengthen the British position, it may--along with some bad effects--have two good effects.

In the first place, if the British and French win or are not too badly defeated, the need for armaments in North and South America will probably be less than it otherwise well may be. That will save us expense and the bad influences which may emanate from a big military establishment. This seems to me the most sensible justification for the proposed change in legislation; and I think that the change if made should be rested on that ground.

A second good effect may, however, just possibly be more important. Our economic system and the future of our children are already threatened by even the present war. We must all hope, in our own interests, that its effects will be no worse.

At the moment, it seems conceivable that the European nations, disgusted with themselves and afraid of each other, may simply stay encamped, or even fight, during a long winter of negotiations. There will be few detached observers who will not, in the present state of affairs, wish the British and French, who have little to gain by fighting, to be in a strong position to negotiate. If, by making airplanes available, we strengthen their hands, we may just con-

ceivably contribute at last to the rational treatment of world problems.

What could such a rational treatment be? In the negotiations just preceding the outbreak of the war, and in neutral hints and belligerent statements more recently, the outlines of a possible treatment may be seen. There is the transition to a peace economy, talked of in England this summer, and connected with the name of President Roosevelt in late August. There is the end of the Versailles system, long advocated by large sections of American opinion, and meaning now particularly the return of German prestige involved in the restoration of colonies. The end of the Versailles system, all agree, must be accompanied by "guarantees". These may have a variety of forms determined only by the ingenuity of statesmen, who like lawyers deal in mortgage, pledge, and suretyship.

One suggestion that seems to have appeared on the edges of recent conferences between small neutrals may be a clue. It may be that in return for the end of Versailles, Germany would cooperate in the establishment of the long looked for Danubian federation, under international supervision. With concessions to Hungary and Bulgaria by Rumania and perhaps Greece, an enlarged and strengthened Balkan League seems possible. To this may be added a properly diminished, but still integral Poland, Bohemia and Slovakia. England, France, Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union and Turkey have long had interests in this unstable area; and many attempts to stabilise it have been made. Under the pressure of crisis, it may be that the attempt could now succeed; and the resulting organization afford a start for the development of new international cooperation.

The development of the organization might, for example, be made the first business of a reinvigorated League. With these steps would naturally go thoroughly supervised armament control.

This would be "Peace without victory." The familiar proposals, thus combined, may now seem visionary; but the alternatives are not, from any point of view, satisfactory.

Box 608,
Sarasota, Florida,

January 27, 1939.

Mr Winfield W. Riefler
Battle Road,
Princeton N.J.

Dear Mr Riefler:

Thank you for your letter, am happy to tell you the information I was looking for is of the finest, Please have the highest opinion of the Roberts.

The house I am building for Mr Roberts is a sort of rambeling affair, facing the Gulf on one of the keys about Thirty miles South of Sarasota, it has very tropical surroundings and I am sure they will spend many pleasant days there.

Please rember me to Mrs Riefler, I am,

Sincerely,



January 24, 1939

Mr. S. W. Marquette
P. O. Box 608
Sarasota, Florida

Dear Mr. Marquette:

Thank you for your letter of January 21st. I was glad to learn that you have gotten together with Mr. Roberts and are planning to build his house.

I do not know exactly what to say with respect to your confidential inquiry. I have known the Roberts here for four years and have the highest opinion of them. So far as I know, they are very well regarded throughout Princeton and are considered at least moderately well off. When I try to rack my memory, however, for any specific information on his financial standing, I have to admit that I have none.

In view of your position, you must protect yourself against over-extension, and I am sure that Mr. Roberts is the type of person to whom you could write quite frankly that you need the definiteness of a contract before you can afford to involve yourself in financial commitments beyond your personal capacity.

Mrs. Riefler joins me in sending you our best greetings. We both hope that you will be most successful in Sarasota.

Sincerely,

Winfield W. Riefler

P.O.Box 608,
Sarasota, Fla,

Jan, 21 1939.

Dear Mr, Reifler;

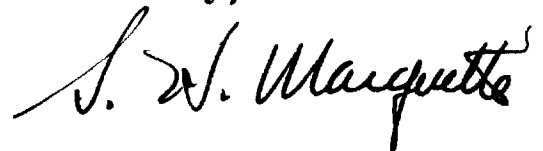
Mr Roberts was here in Florida the first of the Year with Mr Beck, and finally decided on the kind of house Mr Roberts wants to build. He decided to let me build it on a percentage bases rather than a straight contract. During the short stay we went over the many things relating the work, one of them which was Mr Beck would draw up a form of contract and send it to me to sign.

In the mean time I have gone ahead and contracted for all materials, and have the foundations ready for the structure, but to date have not recieved the contract.

Confidentially can you tell me anything about Mr Roberts financial ability, I do not want to embarrass Mr Roberts, and can not afford to get into difficulties my self.

I will appreciate greatly your opinion on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "S. W. Marquette". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "S. W. Marquette".

Clay

19

February 6, 1939

Dear Henry:

Welcome to the Western World! We are all looking forward to seeing you with the greatest of anticipations. I can't give you the full list of the people here who send their love, but they include Stewart, Warren, Dorothy, the Flexners and innumerable Princeton people who have heard of your coming.

Sincerely,

Winfield W. Riefler

Professor Henry Clay

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
150 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

February 18, 1940

Dear Win:

The other day Professor Panofsky, as representative of the Institute Faculty, brought me a beautiful volume which had once belonged to President Gilman and which the Johns Hopkins Trustees had given our group that it might belong to me - "The first Director from the first Faculty". None of you can fathom the depths to which I am stirred by this touching and beautiful act. To President Gilman I owe more than anyone but myself can ever know; to you and your colleagues, as well as to the Founders of the Institute, I owe the opportunity to see a dream realized. And you are one of those who have helped to achieve this miracle. Need I, can I, say more? You must imagine for yourself the deep pleasure which this remembrance gives me and the gratitude I feel to those who have taken my dream, now a reality, into their keeping.

Ever sincerely,

Professor Winfield W. Riefler
Battle Court Road
Princeton, New Jersey



AF:ESB

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
150 EAST 72ND STREET
NEW YORK CITY

September 18, 1944

Dear Win:

I have just heard from Mrs. Bailey that you have returned home and have started with Dorothy to spend as a long a period as possible at Cape Cod. I don't suppose that Dorothy has told you anything about her love affairs in your prolonged absence any more than you are telling her about your misadventures in London. Well, let an iron curtain drop over everything that happened preceding the fall of Paris, etc.

I am delighted that you are once more in position to resume your normal activities. I want very much to see you. Can't you and Dorothy stop in New York on your way to Princeton and have dinner or lunch with us? Just a postcard addressed to us to 150 East 72nd Street telling us when you can come is all the reply that this calls for.

As a matter of fact, we are all just beginning to realize what it means to have almost defeated the Germans. From now on it will, I think, be easy-going.

Anne and I had a superb vacation in Canada - with no heat and very little rain. The lake was never lovelier or more quiet, and even under normal circumstances it is still a lovely and lonely place.

With affectionate greetings to you all from us both,

Ever sincerely your friend,

Mr. Winfield W. Riefler
Orleans, Cape Cod
Massachusetts

A.F.
- 7

AF:ESB