

February 14, 1939

Dear Fosdick:

Here is a letter from Professor Courant, who was Director of the Institute of Mathematics at Göttingen at the time the International Educational Board made its gift. He gives a complete account of what has taken place in Göttingen under the Hitler regime.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

AF/MCE

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 28, 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Mr. Fosdick asked me to send you the enclosed copy of your report. He greatly enjoyed reading it.

Sincerely,



Secretary to Mr. Fosdick

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton
New Jersey

April 12, 1938

Dear Miss Kirk:

Thank you for your note of April 11.

As matters have shaped up, no harm will be done if I do not see Mr. Fosdick until he returns to his office some time in the course of the week after next. I am sorry that the subject in my mind is one with reference to which I cannot at this time write him.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Miss Alvira A. Kirk
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City.

AF/MCE

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 11, 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Mr. Fosdick asked me to tell you that the invitation to go to Washington was quite unexpected, and he has therefore had to revise his schedule for the week in order to accept. He plans to be in Washington tomorrow and Wednesday, returning in time for a luncheon which he is giving for Harold Laski on Thursday. Friday and Saturday are holidays for us here, so he is leaving early Thursday afternoon to be gone until week after next. He is most sorry he won't be able to see you this week. He wonders if you couldn't perhaps write him.

Sincerely,

Alvin A. Kirk

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

February 9, 1938

Dear Fosdick:

I am going to be in New York on Tuesday and Wednesday of the coming week, the 15th and 16th, and I should like to see you for fifteen or twenty minutes. I have made no engagements except one for luncheon on the 16th. If it is convenient I can drop in any time you say.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

AF/MCE

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 11, 1938

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Answering your note of February 9th, Mr. Fosdick will be glad to see you on Wednesday, the 16th. Would 12:00 o'clock suit your convenience? I shall put you down for then but if for any reason some other time is better for you, perhaps you will telephone me after you reach New York on Tuesday.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

V. Kirk

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton
New Jersey

April 29, 1937

Dear Fosdick:

I am sorry that Thursday is the one day next week when I know that I shall have to remain in Princeton. I am trying to make by telephone one or two other New York appointments, and I shall call your office up tomorrow Friday morning in order to make sure that you and I can find a time mutually convenient.

With best wishes,

Ever yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

AF:ESB

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 28, 1937

Dear Flexner:

I shall be delighted to see you next week.
How about Thursday, May 6th, at twelve o'clock? Is
this entirely convenient? Would you rather shift it
to some other day?

Best wishes,

Always yours,

RMA

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

RBF:CL

April 23, 1937

Dear Fosdick:

I have just returned from a two days visit to Washington in the course of which I had a very interesting conversation with Mr. Hummel, who is Curator of the Chinese Section of the Library of Congress, and with Mr. Putnam, the Librarian. Reflecting on what passed between us, I have an idea regarding the Gest Collection towards/which the Rockefeller Foundation made a liberal grant to us. Before I do anything or mention the matter to any one else I should like to get your opinion, for the point I have in mind concerns the Foundation as well as the Institute. Can you let me know what day in the next week or two I can see you for a brief talk? I do not think it will take you long to make up your mind.

I hope that you and Betty are fine. Spring is making its way slowly down here, and I am afraid that the golf course will look a little less beautiful than we had hoped for the garden party next week. I am sure it will look less beautiful now that I learn from Anne that you and Betty can't come.

With all good wishes to you both,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 19, 1937

Dear Flexner:

That was a mighty generous letter you wrote me about my report, and I appreciated it tremendously. I have never met Archie Woods, but I am going to try to get in touch with him very shortly.

Affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RBF', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the bottom of the signature.

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

RBF:CL

April 16, 1937

Dear Fosdick:

I read with practically breathless interest your first review of the work of the Rockefeller Foundation. You have often talked to me about the way I write. Nonsense - nobody writes with greater vigor or clarity than you do, and no one who reads this document would for a moment suspect that it is the first document of the kind which you have had the occasion to prepare.

Certainly the work of the Foundation is, as Kipling would say, far-flung, for there is hardly a corner of the civilized world that it does not touch.

I wonder whether you have had any opportunity to talk with young Archie Woods, who is Director of the Markle Foundation. He spent a day in Princeton recently and we had an interesting discussion as to what foundations can do, and how.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF/MCE

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

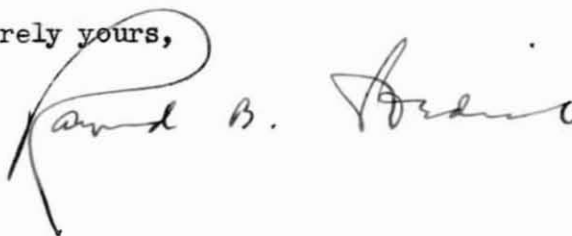
March 23, 1937

Dear Flexner:

I have your letter in regard to the mathematical situation at Princeton, and I can assure you it will have our most careful consideration. Just now, we are in something of a jam over the annual meetings on April 7th and 8th, so that it may be a little time before I can get in touch with you, but I shall communicate with you about the situation at the earliest possible moment.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Raymond B. Fosdick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R" that loops back under the name.

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

RBF:CL

March 19, 1937

Dear Fosdick:

You may be startled by the form of the enclosed communication. It is a little difficult for me to write you as "Dear Mr. Fosdick" or "Dear Mr. President", but I hope I have succeeded in doing so without too much stiffness. This addendum by way of explaining to you my formal letter.

With all good wishes to you and Betty,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City

AF/MCE

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

49 WEST 49th STREET, NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 8, 1937

Dear Flexner:

Wasn't that a delightful letter that Rex Harlow wrote you! I appreciate your sending it to me. It was good to see you the other day, and just as soon as I get my breath after I return from the South, we will get together on that report.

Affectionately yours,



Dr. Abraham Flexner
150 East 72nd Street
New York City

REF:CL

January 6, 1937

Dear Fosdick:

I think that the first paragraph of the letter which I am enclosing, from Professor Harlow of Stanford, who visited Princeton a couple of weeks ago, may give you some idea of the way the Institute impresses people who see the men who are not only professors but workers.

Our luncheon yesterday was delightful and I wish we were closer and could have more of them.

With love to you and Betty,

Ever affectionately,

Mr. Raymond Fosdick
Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York City
AF/LCB

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

II-23

November 11, 1935

Dear Fosdick:

President Dodds has told me that you have been appointed a member of the joint committee which is to meet from time to time to discuss the inter-relations of the Institute and the University. Needless to say, I am very happy at this choice, and I think you will be very much interested indeed in the way these cooperating institutions are developing.

I am going to be in New York November 13, 14 and 15. I had a talk with Simon recently regarding which I should like to report to you. If you will see me at any time on any one of these days for ten or fifteen minutes, except Friday luncheon, let me know. I think you will be interested in what passed between Simon and me.

Ever affectionately,

GRAHAM FLEASNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
61 Broadway
New York City

AF/MCE

P.S. This morning I had a letter from George Hale, in which he spoke of the progress made in connection with the 200-inch telescope, and he adds the following: "My own work is slight in comparison with your own, as you have created an entirely new and greatly needed type of institution, secured funds for it, and staffed it with men of the highest order. I congratulate you very warmly on the great advances you have made and the powerful influence of your work on universities and other institutions. Such shining examples, reaching aloft because of their unequalled standards of true values, are greatly needed in this modern world, where quantity is so often preferred to quality." There are very few persons to whom I would dare to show an opinion like this - you are one of them.

November 8, 1935

Dear Fosdick:

President Dodds has told me that you have been appointed a member of the joint committee which is to meet from time to time to discuss the inter-relations of the Institute and the University. Needless to say, I am very happy at this choice, and I think you will be very much interested indeed in the way these cooperating institutions in developing.

I had talked with Simon yesterday about the Welch Library. I might mention the fact that you and I had spoken briefly on the subject when I last saw you. I am to be in New York November 13-15. Let me know if I can drop in to see you for a few moments on any one of these days. I think there is a possibility of something being done that will appeal to you.

Ever affectionately,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
61 Broadway
New York City

AF:ESB

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Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

October 29, 1935

Miss Eleanor Flexner
 c/o Miss Helen Deutsch
 St. James Theatre Building
 246 West 44th Street
 New York City

If your Dad communicates with you please inform
 him Mr Fosdick prefers appointment at twelve or earlier today

Esther S. Bailey

(Charge Institute for Advanced Study)

50

Fosdick

February 5, 1934

Dear Fosdick:

Many thanks for yours of the 2nd enclosing Bullitt's note, which I shall show to Professor Lefschetz.

I wonder if Bullitt understands that Pontrjagin is not intending to remain in America. He wants to come here to work with the Princeton group and intends to return at once to Moscow, where the Russians will thus get the benefit of his American experience. I enclose copy of a note which I am sending Bullitt to that effect.

Many thanks to you for having started the ball rolling.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
61 Broadway
New York City

1 Encl.
AF/MCE

CURTIS, FOSDICK & BELKNAP

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

61 BROADWAY

NEW YORK

JAMES F. CURTIS
RAYMOND B. FOSDICK
CHAUNCEY BELKNAP

Jan. 30, 1934
R.B. Fosdick

CABLE ADDRESS: CURTISITE

January 29, 1934

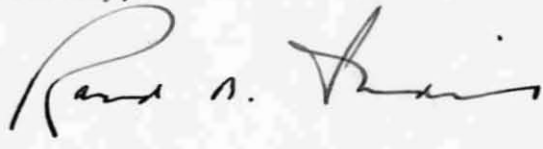
Dear Flexner:

Yes, I have taken up the Dr. Pontrjagin matter with Ambassador Bullitt and expect to have word from him any day now.

About that weekend, I seem to have gone and dated myself up for the next three weeks. My calendar was full almost before I knew it. However, I want very much to come to Princeton and I'll arrange it at the earliest possible moment.

With best wishes,

Affectionately,



Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton
New Jersey

January 26, 1934

Dear Fosdick:

There are two points that I should like to hear from you about:

1. Have you been able to reach Ambassador Bullitt on the subject of Dr. Pontrjagin?

2. I had lunch with Walter Stewart recently and suggested that you and he come down here some week-end in the near future as our guests. He told me what a charming place you had in Connecticut, so that it may be hard for you to pull yourself away. There are a lot of things which he and I talked about and which I should like to talk to you about with him, not to mention the fact that Anne would be very happy to have you also. Will you telephone him and find out whether you could come some Friday or Saturday in the near future? Any day will suit us.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Raymond B. Fosdick
61 Broadway
New York City

AT:ESB

II-23

CURTIS, FOSDICK & BELKNAP

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

61 BROADWAY

NEW YORK

JAMES F. CURTIS
RAYMOND B. FOSDICK
CHAUNCEY BELKNAP

CABLE ADDRESS CURTISITE

December 6, 1932

Dear Flexner:

Well, I see that Einstein got his visa after all. As you said last night, it was one of those damn fool things that could only happen in the United States. Last evening I sent Stimson the following telegram:

"Action by American Consul in Berlin in regard to Dr. Einstein's visa is a deep humiliation to America. Strongly urge that steps be taken at once to remedy situation so that we may not become ridiculous before the whole world. If as a result of blundering stupidity of our representative in Berlin Einstein's visit is made impossible, history will never forgive us."

Harry also sent an indignant telegram to Hoover and we called up Nicholas Murray Butler and got him started on the war path. He was mad as the devil about the whole proceeding and promised to raise hell. I also got Shotwell started and he sent telegrams to Washington. I got in touch with Finley of the New York Times and we were just planning out a campaign when the flash came over the wires that the visa had been granted.

That the State Department should have dignified that absurd petition from the Woman Patriot Corporation is nothing short of a national humiliation.

Faithfully yours,

Dr. Abraham Flexner
100 East 42nd Street
New York City



September 28, 1931

To: Dr. Flexner

From: RBF

This is swell stuff and I have no criticisms
of any kind.

R. B. F.

R. B.,
Fosdick

Time was, when Europe was exposed to ravage by typhus or bubonic plague. Their origin and progress were shrouded in mystery; but the veil has now been lifted; these plagues will not recur, because their causes and methods of distribution are understood; they can be prevented or stopped. But from social and economic plagues the world is not yet immune. They continue to come and go mysteriously. We cannot any longer sit helpless before these social and economic plagues, which, once well under way, ravage the world, as our present economic and social perplexities and sufferings show. The very conquests which science has wrought - increased production and easier distribution, which ought to be blessings - have drawn in their wake curses that may or may not be ^{necessarily} connected with them. On these intricate and recondite matters I have no opinion; but clear it is that nowhere in the world does the subject of economics enjoy the attention that it deserves - economics in the broad sense, inclusive of political theory, ethics, and other subjects that are involved therein. The Institute for Advanced Study has here a pressing opportunity; and assuredly at no time in the world's history have phenomena more important to study presented themselves. For the plague is upon us, and one cannot well study plagues after they have run their course; for with the progress of time it is increasingly difficult to recover data, and memory is, alas, short and treacherous.