

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organization

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Academic Activities

MITRANY, DAVID

Biographical

FLEXNER, A.

Notes have not been taken on the source given below, but the file has been marked as to pertinent correspondence in their long, and somewhat bitter relationship.

There seems little doubt that Flexner had a fatherly and, therefore, somewhat overbearing attitude toward Mitrany, and that ~~maximal~~ his influence was not conducive to productive work by Mitrany, since Mitrany became aware of hostility. Apparently, part of this hostility derived from the fact that Mitrany's sponsor, Frankfurter, was dropped from the Board of Trustees; and that during his tenure on the Board, he took Flexner down the line on a couple of occasions in a high-handed fashion.

It is Mitrany's own doubts as to what he should do in fulfilling his function at the Institute which in part

conducted to the bad relationship. It seems apparent, as on reads the correspondence, that Flexner lost confidence in Mitrany's ability as a scholar to perform research and deliver results in his field of political science.

As Flexner realized, and said to Mitrany, this was largely due, or partly due in any event, to the fact that Mitrany's heart was divided as between the United States and England. Mitrany was prepared, apparently, to come to this country when his wife's illness which was mental caused him to remain longer in England, and, undoubtedly, acted to make it more id difficult for him to collect his thoughts and proceed on a serious piece of research and work. This illness lasted into 1938 from about 1934, and at no time did Mitrany feel that he could spend a great deal of time in this country. As a matter of fact, the correspondence does not render it certain that except at one time, about 1937, he ever decided to become an American and to operate in America. While he endeavored to find his way with Flexner in the early part of 1938, Munich occurred, and he stayed during the "crisis" which took him up into September of 1939;

whereafter, he engaged in work for the British Government in connection with the war, and did not come. See later files for the later history.

III-23 Mitrany, David - 1935-1939

1950

4/21

STIPENDS (DIRECTOR'S FUND)

Academic Personnel

STUDIES IN LITERATURE

Academic Activities

STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY

STUDIES IN LAW

✓ STUDIES IN GOVERNMENT

See Minutes of April 21, 1950.

Trustees' Minutes, 4/21/50 pp. 2 ff.