

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Institute for Advanced Studies  
Princeton University  
Princeton, N. J.

N.Y.C. 3/11/54

Gentlemen:

Since Albert Einstein is such  
a believer in Communism and  
resents the U.S.'s stand on the  
subject, I suggest he move to Russia  
→ and soon! We don't need him.  
Sincerely,  
M.H. DeLHomme

Box 5404 Metro Station,  
Los Angeles 14 Calif.

March 11, 1954.

President or Director,  
Institute for Advanced Study,  
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Sir:

Are you keeping a  
watch that Dr. Albert Einstein,  
despite his great knowledge  
of mathematics, etc, is not  
teaching communistic  
philosophy, along with  
his subjects, to students?  
We have been reading  
about his advising a person  
not to cooperate before  
a committee of the Senate.  
The man needs lessons in  
Americanism. I have no  
patience with this idea that

a person who has performed  
a great deed or discovered  
something, should be ex-  
cused from what citizens  
of N. S. A. must conform to,  
or that they need not account  
for questionable acts of theirs.

Yours truly,

Carolyn M. Hooper.

## Questions

1) What is the essential nature of academic freedom and why is it necessary for the pursuit of truth?

2) What threats to academic freedom do you see at this time?

3) What in your view are the particular responsibilities of a citizen at this time in the defense of our traditional freedoms as expressed in our Bill of Rights?

4) What in your opinion are the special obligations of an intellectual in a democratic society?

5) What in your opinion is the best way to help the victims of political inquisitions?

## Answers

- 1) By academic freedom I understand the right to search for truth and to publish and teach what one holds to be true. This right implies also a duty: one must not conceal any part of what one has recognized to be true. It is evident that any restriction of academic freedom acts in such a way as to hamper the dissemination of knowledge among people and thereby impedes rational judgment and action.
- 2) The threat to academic freedom in our time must be seen in the fact that, because of the alleged external danger to our country, freedom of teaching, mutual exchange of opinions and freedom of press and other media of communication are encroached upon or obstructed. This is done by creating a situation in which people feel their economic positions endangered. Consequently, more and more people avoid expressing their opinion freely, even in their private social life. This is a state of affairs which a democratic government cannot survive in the long run.
- 3) The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it. Only if every single citizen feels duty bound to do his share in this defense are the constitutional rights secure. Thus, a duty is imposed on everyone which no one must evade, notwithstanding risks and dangers for him and his family.
- 4) In principle, everybody is equally involved in defending the constitutional rights. The "intellectuals" in the widest sense of the word are, however, in a special position since they have, thanks to their special training, a particular strong influence on the formation of public opinion. This is the reason why those who are about to lead us toward an authoritarian government are particularly concerned with intimidating and muzzling that group. It is therefore, in the present situation, especially important for the intellectuals to do their duty. I see this duty in refusing to cooperate in any undertaking that violates the constitutional rights of the individual. This holds in particular for all inquisitions that are concerned with the private life and the political affiliations of the citizens. Whoever cooperates in such a case becomes an accessory to acts of violation or invalidation of the Constitution.
- 5) It is important for the defense of civil rights that assistance be given to the victims of this defense who in the above mentioned inquisitions have refused to testify, and beyond that to all those who through these inquisitions have suffered material loss in any way. In particular, it will be necessary to provide legal counsel and to find work for them.  
This requires money the collection and use of which should be put into the hands of a small organization under the supervision of persons known to be trustworthy. This organization should be in contact with all groups concerned with the preservation of civil rights. In this way it should be possible to solve this important problem without setting up another expensive fund-raising machinery.

3/11/54 - 3:00

Mr. Jacobs of the London Jewish Chronicle, asking for whatever additional information he could get on the Committee, whether other members of the Institute had been invited, whether the Institute was to be officially represented; and whether anything special was being done for Einstein's birthday.

Answer: The Institute was not officially represented and was not sponsoring the conference, that I knew very little about the meetings, only the fact that the Committee was meeting in Princeton, that I did not know what other members had received personal invitations to attend.

On the general question of anything special being done, I said I did not know of anything, and would assume this birthday would follow the pattern of previous ones, which was a quiet one at home. I added that Einstein's personal affairs were handled by his personal secretary, not by IAS or our Mr. Jacobs said he would call the University for anything off. they could tell him; and I gave him the name of Dan Coyle.

This was a friendly call; and Mr. Jacobs neither pressed nor seemed particularly excited by the occasion.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
PRINCETON NEW JERSEY  
*Department of Public Relations*

March 11, 1954

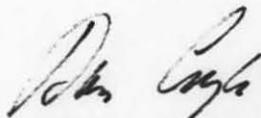
Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

I thought that you  
might be interested in the enclosed  
statement, which was made available  
to the press yesterday afternoon.

With all good wishes,

I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Coyle".

Dan D. Coyle

March 10, 1954

For Your Information

In reply to an inquiry (whether or not he would attend a March 13th meeting of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee), Professor Einstein issued the following statement this afternoon.

"In accordance with his usual custom, Professor Einstein in not attending any meetings on March 13th and never had any intention of attending the publicized meeting of the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. He consented, however, to answer in advance questions submitted to him in writing pertaining to the matter of academic freedom. It is not a question of his health, which fortunately is excellent for a man of 75 years. He will observe his birthday quietly at home."

NOTE TO FILE:

Miss Dukas sent over the attached list of questions, with Professor Einstein's answers, for the conference sponsored by the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee on March 13, 1954. She said that there was another paragraph of answers which was simply a word of greeting, not a specific answer to a specific question.

9 March

Miss Dukas called to say that she had had only one press call-- from the AP--and she had most emphatically said that Professor Einstein was not planning to attend the meeting on the 13th and that he had never intended to go.

She read the following over the phone, which she intends to say for all press calls:

"Professor Einstein is not attending the meeting on March 13th and never had the intention of doing so. It was understood from the beginning that he would only answer in advance questions submitted to him in writing pertaining to the meaning of academic freedom."

Professor Einstein wrote this for her to say.

9 March

Dr. Oppenheimer:

Miss Dukas called to say that Professor Einstein had dictated an answer to her in German to Mr. Stein's letter; she would like to read this to you over the phone before she types it.

rwj

Dr. Oppenheimer said to call Miss Dukas and say that if Einstein were satisfied with the letter, then it would not be proper for Dr. Oppenheimer to edit or alter it; he would, however, appreciate having a copy of the letter when she had finished it.

I called Miss Dukas; she wanted to read the letter to me anyhow, so this is her rough translation of Dr. Einstein's reply to Mr. Stein's question:

Question: "What do you think about the nature of Communism and what are the best methods of combating its influences?"

Dr. Einstein's reply: "I do not know what one should understand of the 'nature of Communism'; but I know well that the Communist Party has made use of such methods which have essentially contributed to the creation of the present atmosphere of general mistrust. Democracy has an effective means to make ineffective damaging influences of any kind; namely, by enlightenment, by free and objective discussions of all problems. This means is always effective in the long run, and it is the only means which democracy has at its disposal."

rwj