

For Weil
house

20 April 1959

Dear André:

When the Trustees of the Institute were here for their annual meeting, I had a chance to talk with the Chairman of the Board and the Treasurer about the terms of the recapture clause for professors' houses. I presented to them both my integral formula and your version, which is simpler and somewhat more favorable to the owner. They expressed a firm preference for the integral formula, regarding it as just and appropriately generous, and they instructed me to use it in our future dealings. They also seemed disturbed over the logically possible, if in fact unlikely, abuses of your version, whereby an owner could pay off a mortgage immediately prior to selling his house to the Institute. In all of this, I thought that you would prefer not to have your name involved, and I did not involve it.

It is nice in Princeton, and we miss you. I hope that it is nice in Paris too.

All the best,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor André Weil
3 rue Auguste-Conte
Paris 6^e
France

Fae Weil
Hauca

6 April 1959

Dear André:

With regard to the repurchase option provisions, I do not want to delay your concluding these arrangements. As they stand, they conform to what the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees has asked us to do. In the past, we have, in one way or another, written provisions both more favorable to a professor and far less favorable to a professor than those in your agreement. I should be glad to discuss the suggestion that when your mortgage is paid off, all profits from the resale of your house and lot accrue to you, with the Finance Committee when they meet here later this month. If they approve of your suggestion, I will undertake to write an endorsement to that effect, to be attached to the repurchase option provisions, and to be binding on the Institute.

I think that under these conditions, you can safely sign the present provisions, and temporarily forget about these problems.

With good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor André Weil
The Institute for Advanced Study

Weil
called

Mike said Weil would be asking to see you about this. He has one beef: No. 3, (b). His memory is that in Jan or Feb of 1958 he talked with you about this, and that, without making any commitment, you had been receptive to the idea of ~~changing~~ making it so that when the entire ~~mortg~~ mortgage is paid off, the entire appreciation would belong to him.

I said we would call him to make an appt. (he is anxious to get matter settled before leaving at end of this week).

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

ANDRE' WEIL

Repurchase Option Provisions

The Grantor, for itself, its successors and assigns, hereby reserves the right, privilege, and option to repurchase the above-described premises and hereby assumes the obligation to repurchase the same from the Grantees, and the Grantees, for themselves, their heirs and assigns, hereby give and grant to the Grantor the right, privilege and option to repurchase the same and hereby assume the obligation to resell the same to the Grantor, upon the occurrence of any one of the following events, namely:

1. The termination of the official connection of both of the Grantees with the Grantor during the Grantees' joint lives.
2. The death of the survivor as between both of the Grantees.
3. The cessation of use of the premises by both of the Grantees as their principal and personal residence.

The repurchase price upon the occurrence of any of the above events shall be such price as shall be mutually agreed upon in writing by the parties within thirty (30) days after the occurrence of the event. In the event, however, that the parties are unable so to agree, the repurchase price shall be determined as follows:

(a) If the then appraised market value of the premises is equal to or less than the total original cost of the premises (including the cost of the lot plus capital improvements from time to time added thereto), the repurchase price shall be equal to the then appraised fair market value.

(b) If the then appraised market value of the premises exceeds the total original cost, then the repurchase price shall be equal to the total original cost plus such percentage of the excess of the then appraised market value over the total

original cost as shall be equal to the average ratio (for the period from the date of this deed to the occurrence giving right to the repurchase option), of the direct investment of the Grantees in the premises (excluding the unpaid balance of any loans or other contributions by the Grantor), to the said total original cost.

The appraised value of the premises shall be determined by an impartial appraiser designated by mutual agreement of the parties within forty (40) days after the occurrence of the event which gives rise to the repurchase option and obligation. If the parties cannot or do not agree upon the appraiser within the time specified, then he shall be designated, upon application of either party, by the Judge then sitting in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Mercer County, New Jersey. The designated appraiser shall submit his appraisal of the premises in writing to both parties within twenty (20) days after notice to him of his designation. The cost of appraisal shall be borne equally by both parties.

All capital improvements upon the premises made by the Grantees shall be certified to the Grantor by a notarized written statement.

Closing settlement shall take place on the repurchase within thirty (30) days after submission of the appraisal. Conveyance of the premises on repurchase shall be by bargain and sale deed with covenants against the grantors, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the building and use restrictions hereinabove set forth.

Fac Weil

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

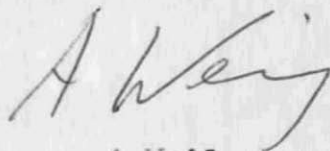
Chicago, July 15, 1958.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

Heartiest thanks for your kind telegram. I am very happy about it - and very grateful.

With best wishes for a pleasant vacation

Very sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A Weil'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

A. Weil

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

sent 7/14/58

Prof. André Weil
Department of Mathematics
University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill.

There will be gas in your house. ^{*Geiger*} ~~Grider~~ informed. Greetings

Robert Oppenheimer

10 July 1958

Dear Professor Weil:

Thank you for your S.O.S. of July 5th. The matter of the gas is not settled, but I write to report. The local agents of the gas company recommended that the line be installed, despite its lack of promise of revenue, because the Institute as a whole is a good customer. This recommendation went to headquarters in Newark. The general counsel there is a former acquaintance of Mike Morgan's. We have been talking to him, and through him to the commissar of gas. He assures us that a decision will be forthcoming in days. I hope that it will be favorable, but have no ground for predicting it. Morgan will let you know at once.

Herewith a copy of a note to Ladyzenskaja. I found myself quite limited in what I could say by the arrangements that Morse had made with Bronk, and by the unforeseen substantial delay in the meeting between Bronk and Nesmyanov, which is now scheduled for September. Thus my letter to Ladyzenskaja does little more than assure her that we are trying to bring her here.

Your house looks almost built. It is already splendidly inconsistent with the portico. It will be the victor.

We look forward to seeing you come here in September.

With all good wishes,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor André Weil
Department of Mathematics
Chicago University
Chicago, Illinois

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

July 5, 1958.

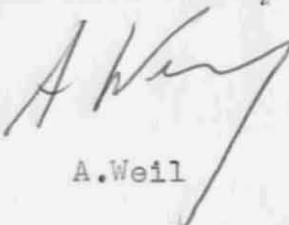
Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

This is an S.O.S. concerning the gas situation for my house (and Strömgrèn's, since he is just as keen on the matter as I am). Morgan will tell you all the details, if you wish to hear them (which I doubt). I shouldn't be dragging you into this if I had not just had indirect information that this will need the strongest kind of pressure on the Public Service Co. in Newark. Of course, if we can't have it, we shall have to resign ourselves to electricity for the kitchen, and oil-heating. But this would be a disappointment, particularly to my wife. It would be a great favor of you if you would make sure that the utmost is being done (and not just, as Laugier, the former boss of the C.N.R.S., used to say: "Je ferai l'impossible dans la mesure du possible").

I apologize for adding to the pile of letters on your desk, but this is really important for me, and urgent. There are other matters which I shall want to discuss with you, but they can wait until September.

With best wishes for a pleasant vacation in the Caribbean

Very sincerely yours



A. Weil

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

28 February 1958

Dear Professor Weil:

Thank you for your good note, and for letting me have copies of the draft letter to Weaver. The letter is fine, and has caused us much pleasure. Of course, you know that in all its main points I agree; and if I have some misgivings about more or less administrative matters--the power, for instance, of the National Science Foundation to cause the armed services to desist from supporting pure mathematics--these seem quite minor, and there is in any case no reason why they should be reflected in what you write.

I rather hope that you will send the letter to Weaver. I am sure that he will understand that it is your letter, and not an expression of consensus of the Institute Faculty or anybody else. I write this despite the fact that, as you will have seen, or will shortly see, from the records of the Chicago meeting, there appear to be no present plans for new institutes for advanced study in mathematics, at Chicago or anywhere else. This was also confirmed for me by Whitney. But such, and other, follies are recurrent. It can do nothing but good for Weaver to have your letter to remember. In addition, I would not wish to deprive him of the pleasure.

I have asked Morgan to write to you about gas for your new house. The company has no incentive to contribute to the construction of a line, since there will only be a handful of houses on our land, and beyond lie the twin deserts of Institute farm land and Battlefield Park. I am quite clear that if you want very much to have gas, you should plan to have it bottled. As of today, the Whitneys will also be your neighbors.

Kitty was pleased with the message from your wife. If the silences from Lévy mean anything, we may indeed need help.

With all greetings,

Robert Oppenheimer

Professor André Weil
3 rue Auguste-Comte
Paris 6
France

Fac Weil

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICS
THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE 18, MARYLAND

19.11.58.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

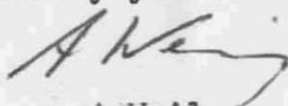
I apologize for bothering you about such a small personal matter; but, as I find that my wife would very much like to have gas in our future house, may I remind you that you promised to have Mr. Morgan make another attempt at persuading the gas company to bring gas out to where our house will be? Please tell him to let me have the final answer as soon as he gets it.

I am rather curious to have your reactions to the draft of my letter to Weaver.

My wife wishes Mrs. Oppenheimer to know that she will be very glad to help in any way she can in connection with your stay in Paris

With best regards

Sincerely yours



A. Weil

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

November 21, 1957.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer,

This is just to tell you that I am going to spend about a month in Princeton this winter, approximately from January 10 to February 10; the exact dates cannot be stated in advance, as I shall depend upon the Air Force for transportation. There are a number of reasons for this trip; but I might not ^{have} undertaken it except for the fact that I am somewhat worried about the housing problem, and I prefer to try to solve it, if possible, before I come to Princeton with my family next Fall. I know I may depend upon your kind help in this as well as in other matters.

Needless to say, I am very much looking forward to seeing you soon.

With best regards

Very sincerely yours


A. Weil