

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

KEY FOR EARLE-INSTITUTE FILE

IN BASEMENT

(Mrs. Stearn has duplicate key)

December 31, 1934

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

My dear Professor Earle:

I am sending you herewith duplicate slip
for \$416.63, your salary for the month of December
1934.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY
Assistant Secretary

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Director of the Institute

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

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MRS. FELIX FULD

December 13, 1934

Dear Ed:

I received almost a week ago your interesting letter of the third, but I had to go to New York directly thereafter so that I was unable to answer it, and yesterday came your letter of the tenth, to which I shall reply at the same time.

I was very much interested indeed in your comments on the memorandum which I sent you. Let me put your mind absolutely at rest, however. "The Institute is not going to stack all its chips on one card." Frankfurter pointed out in his memorandum that the great contributions to political thought had been made by beginning the study of contemporaneous problems. If the author of that memorandum should come into the Institute and, if he should think that his best approach to economic theory lay through a study of the durable goods problem and all the problems connected therein - credit, money, transportation, unemployment, etc. - could thus be most concretely and effectively reached, I should let him alone, precisely as Carrel is let alone at the Rockefeller Institute. Meanwhile, Frankfurter also pointed out that one of the great difficulties in the way of straight economic thinking is the vogue of economic slogans - free trade, protection, sound money, etc. These are historic problems and in their origin, vogue, and influence may not only interest you but be more illuminating than anything else that could be done. Even so, put your teeth into them or into anything else that enlists your interest. If we start out with three or four members of the economic group, I

L.M.E.

Dec. 13, 1934

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should hope that they would be all, as the mathematicians are, good friends, talk with one another with the utmost candor and then each of them go off as he pleases. Certainly for one or two years or longer there will be nobody around in the way of workers or students to interfere with your leisure to talk with one another, to talk with other people, to read, to think, and to clarify your minds. Don't believe for a minute that I would dare to influence you and your associates any more than I influence the mathematicians.

I had a letter the other day from Walter Stewart, who has been a great source of comfort and aid to me, part of which I think would interest you. It runs as follows:

"In economics, my preference runs toward someone who is possessed with some concrete problem but who is prepared to deal with its general implications. This seems to me to furnish the best hope of escaping from the vagueness of superficiality which has affected so much current work in economics and of establishing a fresh approach. In fairness, however, I must quote you the comment of a friend.

'I don't think the Institute's Division of Economics should outline its topics yet. I think it should assemble a group that would just stew around for a while and wonder what it's all about. After six months or a year, probably somebody would think of something. I doubt that the world is in urgent need of more statistics, more facts, more research; or that the Institute needs to start with a clerical and statistical force. In fact, I think that the members should be required to take a vow of total abstinence from statistics, data, and maybe even facts for a six-month probationary period. This country is simply lousy with statistics; and crawling with research workers.'"

And now for your letter of the tenth. I have learned from Beatrice and also from physicians that you were going to go through a devilishly uncomfortable time with this pneumothorax. I am also assured that this is a temporary condition, and your feelings are no real indication of what is happening in your insides. Miss Sabin has heard from Dr. Schaefer that your discomfort is rather less than is often the case. You, who have borne so much, I am perfectly sure are going to be able to

T.M.E.

Dec. 13, 1934

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bear this. It may be a sad sort of comfort to you to know that for a year preceding my tonsillectomy and for the entire time since I have been utterly miserable in consequence of the cutting of certain nerves in the back of my throat and tongue. My sense of taste is gone, my appetite is gone. From time to time my tongue seems twice its natural size, and I have had the devil's own time in sleeping. I have consulted physicians in New York, Baltimore, London, and Gastein, and all the comfort I get is that sooner or later these abominable symptoms will disappear. My strength has somehow or other increased, though I take almost no exercise at all, but it has been a tough trial, carrying on the Institute and thinking about its development while I have been so darned uncomfortable. I am not comparing my affliction with yours in the point of seriousness, but one neurologist gave me a helpful piece of advice, namely, to try to learn the art of ignoring my symptoms instead of watching them. To some extent I have succeeded, and I am better accordingly, but every now and then, as for example, at this very moment they just get the better of me, and I write this, lying in bed, because I find the symptoms become worse when I am fatigued. However, waste no sympathy upon me, for, as Carlyle's neighbor at dinner once said to him,

"I can stand this universe"

to which, by the way, Carlyle replied,

"By God, you had better."

I am returning to you herewith the telegram and letter, dated December 18, 1930. It is a long time, and I do not underrate the patience or endurance that you have had to summon in order to put up with it, but you have ahead of you the most interesting and fruitful part of your career, and I hope that the knowledge of that fact will help you to put up with your present burdens.

This letter will be reaching you sometime before Christmas. It carries

E.M.E.

Dec. 13, 1934

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with it unbounded love and affection and confidence for you and for Bee and Robin
for the New Year and for many years still to come.

Ever affectionately,

a. J.
—

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

10 December 1934

Dear Ben

Every year at about this time I get out my files and read the enclosed letters and telegram. They gave me great joy four years ago, and they still do. You and Ben have been the most wonderful of friends, and what I should have done without you I don't know.

I have been having a very trying time the past month or so. I'm really very sick right now, and I sometimes wonder - much against my will - whether I ever shall be well again. This pneumothorax has been a technical success, but it has certainly made me feel a great deal worse rather than better. Last spring and summer I really seemed to be much better, so I hope you will not feel I have betrayed you

and the I shall if all does not turn out as we
then hoped. Of course, I shall continue to do every-
thing I can to get well; as you know, I shall
surrender.

I write Bee very little about how I feel.
There is nothing she can do either in Princeton or here.
But she will be seeing me soon and will let you
know her own impressions when she returns West.

Please return the enclosed letter and telegram.
I prize them highly.

Where shall you be spending the holidays?
Wherever you are, you will have my affectionate
thoughts.

Always yours
Ed.

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

10 December 1934

Dear Mr.

Since you wrote your letter of 1 December you have heard further from me regarding the Riefler memorandum. I was, as I said in my second letter, impressed with the fact that you have been the most important approach to our current economic problems. What I had feared on a hasty first reading was that the proposal was a "project" rather than a method; needless to say, your letter removes all doubts on that score. I shall always be glad to help in any way I can at this distance.

Yours always sincerely

Ed.

Dr. Charles F. Flannery
Institute for Advanced Study.

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

3 December 1934

Dear Sirs

My stenographer is laid up with a cold; therefore, if you can stand my miserable scrawl I'd like to write you a bit further concerning the memorandum enclosed in your note of 24 November. I can approach the whole question objectively, as I do not know the author.

There can be no doubt that the unemployment problem is of primary importance in our present economic system. Certainly at the bottom of the problem of unemployment is the seasonal, sporadic, and at times fairly complete cessation in the utilization of the great plant and equipment of modern capitalism. It is also true that this phenomenon is destructive to "capitalists" — who now number millions of ~~persons~~ holding securities, bank deposits,

and are same policies - and strong - the way of the
more equitable distribution of wealth which would
do much to secure continuity of consumption (and
hence avoid the very idleness of capital goods which
^{or is the result of} "depressions"). What is true of capital goods
is reflected in the unstable demand for durable consumer
goods.

Since 1929 there has been a growing appreciation
of the significance of the durable goods industries as
those which must be stimulated if a depression is
to be lifted. (Back of this, of course, lies the various
public works programs - notably British housing
construction). Even more significant, as the author
of your news indicates, is the appreciation that an
improved standard of living is bound up in large
measure with the future of durable goods; take
the best possible, for example, of such a thing as
air conditioning. "Technocracy" and "Social Credit"
are crude recognition of the fundamental idea that a
higher standard of living - the highest possible standard
of living - one means of keeping capital goods at work
and, therefore, of making capitalism function. Flawless

The same is taking - a circle; well, in fact, means - circles, as I try to point out

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

2.

Widened since it all clearly was then twenty years ago.
On the other hand, such silly contemporary proposals
as the Townsend best big Pension Plan are based upon
stimulating the purchase, very largely at least, of
consumers' goods.

In short, I believe, that the desirable goods
problem is one of surpassing importance. As to
whether the Institute should stake all its chips on this
one card, however, is another matter. If you know one
or two or a half dozen men who feel that this is the
field in which their primary interest lies, they might
well be given free play in this direction. But there
is a vast amount of work to be done in other direc-
tions not altogether or even remotely connected with
this problem. And I should dislike to see the Economic
Committee of the Institute at work on a ^{single} "project" which
might or might not produce results. As I wrote
you three years ago, the thing is to get able men
and give them free rein. Apparently this is Professor
Frankfurter's idea also.

I find it similarly like the last 2 1/2 years of the news
"Problems of Organization" - with the realization about
a statistical delirium. Much of its work on desirable
goals could be done only away from Princeton - in
factories and plants themselves, for example. I feel
much the same way about my own work when
I can take it up - it will require conferences and
travel of which Princeton will be a center but not,
I hope, a nesting place. This is not a day for bookworms;
there is too much to be seen and heard - the curious world.

Robbins' book "The Great Depression" is
lacking in perspective. He is obsessed in certain
theories of money and credit (themselves questionable
and doesn't grasp the whole problem. Nevertheless,
he has written a book which cannot and will not
be denied an audience - it is brilliant in places.

I don't know whether I have written any-
thing worth while in this memorandum. In any
case, I should like to know what you think.

Always affectionately

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study.

Ed.

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

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

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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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LOUIS BAMBERGER

MRS. FELIX FULD

December 3, 1934

Dear Ed:

Thank you for your two notes of November 29th, received this morning.

I shall attend to the matter of annuity. The budgetary difficulty I alluded to is this: I have tried from the outset to present a budget at the spring meeting, so that the Board would not have to be at the necessity of taking up small financial items at successive meetings. Thus far we have succeeded, with the result that the Treasurer told me last week when I saw him in New York that he had never seen anything as smooth as the financial arrangements between his office and Mrs. Bailey. Nothing can possibly happen to the sums accumulated to your credit in the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association. They do not belong to Columbia or Barnard or the Institute. They belong to you and your heirs and will continue to accumulate as long as you live, which I hope will be for a very long time. Our contributions will simply be added thereto. Is this clear? If not, don't hesitate to drop me a further line on the subject.

Riefler came to Princeton Saturday and spent the whole day with me. He is far from thinking that the durable goods approach is the only approach to economic phenomena. It is, in his judgment and in that of Walter Stewart, one which opens up in a concrete way questions of money, credit, etc., etc. On the other hand, Riefler was careful to say that if he was asked to come to the

Professor Earle

December 3, 1934

- 2 -

Institute he would want to lie fallow for six months or a year, as it is quite possible that something new and even more promising would occur to him. Nobody would have supposed that when Pasteur began dealing with bad beer he would open up the whole subject of modern bacteriology, but that is what happened. The thing to avoid is a theoretic approach along accepted and abstract lines to the conventional economic headings. We will have to find a realistic approach if we are ultimately going to develop anything like an economics and politics expressive of the conditions under which we live.

There is the widest difference in the world between Riefler's notions and those of the Brookings Institution, because the Brookings Institution has always had its eye open to "application." It has taken a myopic and short-ranged view. Riefler and Stewart and Walton Hamilton take exactly the opposite point of view: Select a problem, to be sure, but be utterly indifferent where it carries you or what happens in politics or industry in consequence of the theoretic results to which it may lead.

Of course, no one individual can select a particular problem upon which another chooses to embark. That is just as true in mathematics as it is in economics, but, though every one of our seven mathematicians has his own problem, there is a constant interchange of views, which is stimulating and helpful. Something like this should happen in the School of Economics and Politics. Each person is going to be interested in something of his own choosing, and yet the school should not be atomic. The men ought spontaneously and aimlessly, as they do in mathematics, to browse together. The results of such browsing cannot be predicted and would be useless if they could.

With all good wishes, in which Anne joins,

Ever affectionately,

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

A. J.
—

November 30, 1934

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

My dear Professor Earle:

I am sending you herewith triplicate
deposit slip, Bank of the Manhattan Company, for
\$416.67, your salary for the month of November
1934.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Assistant Secretary

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

29 November 1934

Dear Alben

Just a note regarding to annuity which
Barrons and I have been maintaining with the
Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association.
This is paid in full to October 31, 1934. If I
understand a rather letter of yours correctly
(P.S. #2 + yours of 16 November), some budgeting
difficulties stands in the way of the Institute
taking over this obligation immediately. I am par-
ticularly desirous that these payments be not al-
lowed to lapse. Could some appropriate ex-
pedient be made immediately, even if the
entire premium has to be deducted from my
salary for the present?

As always
Ed.

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

29 November 1934

Dear Mr.

This is merely to acknowledge your note of 24 November and the memorandum therein enclosed. I have read the latter with some care but shall want a little time to comment on it at length. I shall hope next week to enlist the aid of a stenographer and write you further. Of one thing, however, I am now reasonably persuaded — "The Problem of Durable Goods" is an approach to the problem which faces us but not necessarily the approach. In other words, the ^{work of the} Institute should be much more flexible than a prolonged study of one problem, however interrelated with others, ^{such as} ~~there is~~ here proposed. In some respects, indeed, the proposal here made is rather like the work which the Brookings Institute is doing. I am impressed with the lack

sation "Problems of biography", although I should
regret to see the Institute saddled for its moment
with anything remotely approaching a statistical
laboratory. In accordance with your recent
report to the Trustees, it seems to me altogether
advisable (in the original Hopkins tradition) not to
become entangled with physical possessions - they
will come all too soon. But I am not persuaded
that there is not a great deal of thinking to be done
(philosophical, psychological, legal, historical) before
we enter the already overcrowded field of statistics
and their interpretation. Of all of this, however, more
later.

Always yours
Ed.

Dr. Abraham Flexner

The Institute for Advanced Study.

Columbia University
in the City of New York

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

November 26, 1934.

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs
Colorado

Dear Ed:

I took up with the Executive Committee a few days ago the matter contained in your letter. They, of course, concurred in your request, although we were all regretful of the need which prompted it. Several of them wanted to know about financial arrangements but I did not feel in a position to reply to such questions, so the matter there rested. In discussing the question with Fackenthal I found that the President had already taken action on the initiative of Dean Gildersleeve, so I assume that the arrangements are all completed.

I hope that you are feeling better than when you last wrote and that you will find within a year or so you will be able to come East. I have not heard from Bee, but presume she is very busy in her new job.

Faithfully yours,

Austin

November 24, 1934

Dear Ed:

I am sending you herewith a memorandum prepared for me by a young economist with whom I have had a number of interviews in the last two years. It represents a very radical departure from academic economics. I wonder how it strikes you.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF/MCE

Barnard College
Columbia University
New York

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

November 20, 1934

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Professor Earle:

Thank you very much for your two letters. That of November 17th reached me this morning. And thank you also for the check for \$250, refunding the amount paid by Barnard toward your retiring allowance since January 1st last. I appreciate immensely your desire to repay this money and the rest to the College, but I do hope you will not let this idea weigh upon your mind. You are really under no obligation whatsoever to pay back these sums.

I am asking our Bursar to send Mrs. Earle \$1,000, which is the balance left over from her last payment of \$1,500 towards your salary.

I will await word from you before making any public statement about you.

With regard to the check for \$5.00 which you sent to cover the cost of telegrams, I will

Professor Earle - 2

hold that until I find out just how much these
wires cost.

I am very happy indeed at the
prospect that you and Beatrice have now embarked
on a new and interesting and hopeful stage in
your lives.

With warmest good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Virginia C. Gildersleeve.

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LIFE TRUSTEES

LOUIS BAMBERGER

MRS. FELIX FULD

November 16, 1934

Dear Ed:

I am delighted to have your letter of November 13. Beatrice has kept me informed regarding your progress, and I need not say that I am thoroughly delighted with it, though of course I wish it were faster; but it is so much more important that your progress should be sound and final rather than rapid that we must all inure ourselves to patience, though I have no doubt you hate the very word. But I know something of that damned virtue myself, for I still carry the most unpleasant consciousness of my tonsillectomy, though of course I am able to attend to business. The only consolation I get when I am as uncomfortable as the devil is patience, patience.

I had hoped to make at one and the same time the enclosed announcement about Professor Morse and the economics group, but I have made slower progress with the economics group than I had expected, so that announcements regarding you and Mitrany will have to wait. Meanwhile, I am glad that you have arranged matters with Miss Gildersleeve and your friends at Columbia.

I am interested in what you write of Robbins' book, for it coincides with what was said to me in England by persons who admire him but find him rather stiff and ill-adjusted.

Don't worry about my general health. I am really in very good shape, considering the fact that on the day your letter was written I was sixty-eight years

E.R.E.

Nov. 16, 1934

2

of age.

With all good wishes,

Ever affectionately,

A. F.

P.S.

Ben and Mary are both well and very happy, Mary having greatly improved after a nasty time with something like sciatica.

A.F.

B is winning golden laurels!

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

P.S. #2

I omitted to refer to what you said on the subject of the Teachers Annuity Fund. An item covering this will be included in the next budget.

A.F.

2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado
November 13, 1934

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Abe:

I have been wanting to write to you for a long time; but, as Beatrice has probably told you, I have been undergoing some medical experiments which are more hopeful than comfortable at the moment.

I am grateful for Mrs. Bailey's note of the 7th enclosing extracts of the minutes of the meeting of your Board of Trustees held October 8. I was especially interested and pleased with the remarks of Professor Frankfurter concerning the method of approach to economic and social problems; as you know, I am thoroughly in accord with his point of view and have written you to that effect from time to time heretofore.

I have read the lecture on Social Science and the Political Trend by Frank H. Knight. His brother used to work with me at Barnard. I am not quite prepared to admit, as he is, that Liberalism has passed. But certainly we are undergoing some kind of a political and economic revolution which our perspective is too narrow for us to appreciate thoroughly. As to Mitrany's paper, it shows his usual ability to understand and indicate the consequences of political tendencies. I am convinced that you made no mistake whatsoever in acquiring his services for the Institute.

I have been in correspondence with Miss Gildersleeve and with one or two others at Columbia upon whose confidence I can depend. Although they have given me a release they will make no announcement until you are prepared to do so. Beatrice tells me that you will probably not be doing this as soon as you intended, but in any case the path is now clear.

^{suppose}
I ~~hope~~ it will now be practicable for you to make the necessary arrangements with the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association on my behalf, and this letter will authorize you to deduct from my honorarium at whatever periods you wish such sums as may be necessary to pay my portion of the annuity premium.

I have not quite finished "The Great Depression" by Robbins and so shall wait until another time to write you concerning it. In some respects it is a brilliant book but in others it is sadly lacking in vision and accuracy.

I hope your work is now lightening so that you will not again get tired. We all count so heavily on you that you must conserve your energy at all costs. Every affectionate good wish to you all.

As always,



EME:GD

November 7, 1934

My dear Professor Earle:

I am sending you herewith extracts from the minutes of the meeting of the Trustees of the Institute, held October 8, in which Mr. Flemer thinks you will be interested. I am also enclosing an elaboration by Professor Frankfurter of the brief summary of his remarks contained in the minutes. These need not be returned.

Sincerely yours,

ROYCE S. BAILEY

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

October 27, 1934

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tabor Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

My dear Professor Earle:

In accordance with your letter of September 30 I have just written a letter to the Bank of Manhattan Company, New York City, requesting that they deposit to your credit check for \$416.67, which represents your salary for the month of October 1934. I send you herewith copy of my letter.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY
Assistant Secretary

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FRANK AYDELOTTE
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ESTHER S. BAILEY
Assistant Secretary

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
Director of the Institute

Dear Ed:

October 26, 1934

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FRANK AYDELOTTE
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ABRAHAM FLEXNER
FELIX FRANKFURTER
JULIUS FRIEDENWALD
JOHN R. HARDIN
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WALTER W. STEWART
PERCY S. STRAUS
OSWALD VELEN
LEWIS H. WIEED

LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

Yesterday I received your nice note of the 22nd, and I have heard from Beatrice through Mrs. Bailey that the doctors are taking forward steps with you.

I see no reason why you should not now communicate confidentially with Miss Gildersleeve, asking her to make no announcement in advance of the announcement which we hope to make sometime in the near future. I shall, however, make no statement until I have heard from you respecting your correspondence with Miss Gildersleeve, and I shall also of course allow you plenty of time to serve notice upon Columbia. I am extremely anxious to do everything in proper form so that no institution can have any ground for feeling that we have been in the slightest manner discourteous or negligent.

I am interested in what you say of Robbins' book. He is one of these striking people who was born about ten years too early. I have no intention whatsoever of including him in the group, but I have been impressed by his ability, though I think he is far more sure than in the present state of economic knowledge and experience anyone can scientifically afford to be. None the less, I shall be glad to know what you think of the book when you finish it.

As regards the Essays of Cliffe Leslie, you are no worse off than

Professor Earle

October 26, 1934

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ninety-nine professional economists in one hundred. The book fell into my hands forty years ago as nearly as I can recollect. Leslie died while a young man or the whole history of economics in the English-speaking countries might have been different. His book made an impression upon me which was so deep that it is influencing me profoundly in my whole attitude towards this new school which we are hoping to start. Meanwhile, there is a distinct movement towards Leslie's point of view among all who have not in speech and writing hitherto committed themselves. I think the book is in New York, but I shall send it to you. I prize it very highly.

I am sorry that we have seen so little of Beatrice, but she has been busy, and I have been just as busy. The first three days of this week I had to spend in Washington and New York, and I have to go to New York again this afternoon. I keep well, but I have got to husband my strength.

This morning before I came to the office Anne and I spoke about having Beatrice to dinner with a few friends. This we shall do within the next fortnight. I do get, however, golden opinions about her almost daily from persons whom I meet on the street. The last, for example, was Mrs. Marquand, who stopped me to say, "Princeton owes you an everlasting debt for bringing Mrs. Earle here."

We are all well, and all join in affectionate greetings and best wishes to you.

Ever yours,

A.S.

P.S.

I am returning herewith Hayes' review of Spengler's nonsense.

A.F.

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

I shall send the carbon of this letter to Beatrice.

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October 26, 1934

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Wrote you letter this morning Suggest that you communicate with Miss Gildersleeve promptly inasmuch as there are several announcements that I may wish to make in near future and I should like to include your name in the general announcement Warmest greetings

Abraham Flexner

1.35

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

22 October 1934

Dear Mr.

This is merely a grateful acknowledgment of your letter of 18 October. Of course, I am very happy, as I previously have written, to be added to the staff of the Institute; it is an honor which I prize highly.

I should like to tell Miss Gildensleeve in confidence. Later, when you are ready to make your announcement, I hope you will give me some advance notice so that I may present more formal notice at Columbia. In your case, this is a courtesy I owe everyone there.

Just now I am reading "The Great Depression" by Robbins. He writes with facility

but too some fairly fixed ideas. I can't know
whether you've been considering him; but if you
are, I'd proceed warily. I'll write you more
about the book later.

Confessing ignorance, I have not seen
the essays of Cliffe Leslie. Perhaps Mrs. Bailey
would send them on at your convenience. I
read slowly these days but thoughtfully - in
a way, my present isolation is an advantage.

Affectionate good wishes to you all

Yrs always

E. M.

Dr. Abraham Thiers

The Institute for Advanced Study.

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

October 18, 1934

Dear Ed:

I have your very interesting and clean-cut note of October 15, and I am delighted that you did not hesitate to point out the defects of my letter, as far as you were concerned. I may now say to you that all professional appointments are permanent up to the age of sixty-five and can be prolonged beyond that period by the action of the Board. It is not necessary therefore to include in the resolution of the Board anything covering that point. You will be a professor up to sixty-five in any event, and the matter of salary will come up naturally at the conclusion of the two-year period. I have no doubt in my own mind that this is a problem that will solve itself by your coming to Princeton before the expiration of that period and thus receive your full remuneration.

I hope that the following resolution removes all your doubts, for you are on exactly the same basis as Einstein or Veblen or any one else, in so far as your appointment is concerned:

"The Director called attention to Miss Sabin's favorable report regarding the physical condition of Professor Edward Mead Earle.

On motion, Professor Earle was made a professor in the School of Economics and Politics and was granted leave of absence for the year 1934-1935 at half pay, viz., Five thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), with the understanding that, if necessary, this leave would be renewed on the same terms for one year from September 1, 1935."

Professor Earle

October 18, 1934

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I was very much interested in your comments on Cassel's lecture and in your fundamental agreement with the point of view that Frankfurter and Stewart had expounded. The moral of it all is that the economists have got to make a fresh start. Their science, if it is properly called a science, has a relation to the society of its own era. Whether there is anything permanent or whether economics differs from age to age and from people to people, it is for them to ascertain. Unquestionably, the economics of the Zulus was different from the economics of Wall Street. Do you know the essays of Cliffe Leslie? He opened my eyes on that subject many years ago. He was a brilliant Irish economist, and it has astonished me to find out how few people either in England or in America know the one volume in which his brief essays are collected. I can lend it to you if you do not know it.

I keep constantly hearing of Beatrice from others, and everything I hear is good.

With all good wishes,

Ever affectionately,

Abraham Flexner

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

E. M. Earle

2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colo.
October 15, 1934

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Director of the Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Abe:

It was characteristic of you to call me up last night and to set my mind at rest concerning the character of the appointment which you propose for me. I must confess, however, a little difficulty in attempting to write my own ticket. I hope you will make any changes you want in what I have to suggest. It has just occurred to me that for purposes of our records it would be wise to have one letter setting forth all the essential information. What I would propose is something about as follows.

"You are appointed a professor in the School of Economics and Politics at the Institute for Advanced Study, effective September 1, 1934, at a salary of \$10,000 per annum. The appointment is made on permanent tenure. It is understood, however, that during the academic year 1934 to 1935 you will be on leave of absence at half the stipulated honorarium and if necessary this leave of absence will be renewed for one year from September 1, 1935. For the present it seems advisable for the Institute not to undertake a definitive financial commitment beyond two years; therefore if by some chance your health should make it impracticable for you to be in residence in Princeton in the autumn of 1936 the Trustees would feel free to make any arrangement concerning salary which seemed advisable to them, but it is definitely understood that you would continue to be carried as a member of the faculty in any case regardless of financial considerations."

The foregoing paragraph expresses my ideas, perhaps in a bungling and uncertain way and I really hope that you will rephrase them. I feel silly to have raised any question at all in view of the generous spirit of your letters of September 19 and October 9, but you were charitable in explaining to me over the telephone last evening that you understood fully the importance of security of tenure.

The book by Robbins, The Great Depression, came today. I shall read it with the critical eye which you suggest.

I have just read Gustav Cassel's Cobden Memorial lecture entitled "From Protectionism Through Planned Economy to Dictatorship". It shows the utter bewilderment of a really distinguished economist of the old school. Here is a man who believes in the gold standard but says it cannot possibly be restored and who believes in general in free trade but says it is out of the question. In thinking of Cobden and Bright and in reading Adam Smith, I realize how much economic theories are influenced by prevailing economic conditions. Shortly after the Fordney-McCumber tariff I wrote an essay for the Political Science Quarterly called "The New Mercantalism" which indicated in general way that extreme protectionism made increasing governmental interference inevitable. Perhaps history will decide that Mr. Hoover by signing the Smoot-Hawley tariff was much more the father of "planned economy" than Roosevelt.

Dr. Abraham Flexner

- 2 -

October 15, 1934

How fortunate you are to have Frankfurter on the Board of Trustees. He is quite right in saying that many of our so-called economic laws are merely slogans. As you know, I am thoroughly in sympathy with your, his, and Stewart's idea that the entire subject should be approached without any preconception whatsoever.

I have gathered from Beatrice's letters that, although she is working very hard, she finds great satisfaction in what she is doing. Naturally I am especially glad to hear from you that her work is meeting with enthusiastic approval.

As always, affectionately,



EME:GD

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

12 October 1934

Dear Mr.

I am very grateful for your letter of the ninth concerning the action of the Board of Trustees of the Institute. Perhaps I should not be disturbed at the fact that the appointment was made for only two years, but I am. I had understood all along that it would be on a permanent basis. As I wrote you in one of my earlier letters, I should not expect the Institute to assume any financial burden for more than two years — indeed, I am willing to go even farther than that and say that I am willing that you should accept no financial burden at all for the present. (Fortunately, I have not yet called to check your money good enough to send you at the end of September). But you know enough of the status of university

professors + know to great value of security
of tenure. Board and Calverton are willing to
carry me on their rolls for at least of my life
(See an earlier letter of mine on this point).

Now like, dear, I have to utmost confidence
in you, as I think you know. More, I have
a degree of affection which you will never be
able to measure. Were the future entirely and
indefinitely in your hands I should have not
the slightest concern or hesitation. But I have
learned to my great sorrow these past five
years that nothing is certain ~~but~~ but uncertainty.
I have every reason to believe that I shall be
with you at the Institute within the time limit of
two years which you have set. But suppose I
should fail and suppose that at the end of two
years you should for some reason be no longer
connected with the Institute? I should then find
myself without a sponsor and without an academic
home to which to return. Would you and Ben
advise me to sever my connections with

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

②

Columbia in these circumstances and thus to
run the risk of losing my professional status
entirely?

If you feel it unwise to make a permanent appointment while the state of my health is uncertain, I am willing to wait until the uncertainty is removed. Fortunately, Miss Gildersleeve knows nothing of the present negotiations, and I shall say nothing to her until you say the word.

This letter is written to you as a friend
to another revered friend as much as in my
capacity as prospective apprentice to you as
Director of the Institute. I want your help and
your advice. My heart is with you and
in the wonderful work you are doing.
I am honored even to be considered for a share

in that week, and I shall be heartbroken if
our plans do not materialize. But I am sure
you would not want me to run the slightest
risk of losing every university connection, especially
- in view of these uncertain times.

Please feel free to write me frankly,
as I have written you. And, if you like, talk
about it with Beatrice, who loves and respects
you as I do.

Always affectionately

Ed.

You will be glad to know that my last x-ray
films are better and that my blood counts remain
good. I am hoping shortly again to make another
effort at getting up.

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LOUIS BAMBERGER

MRS. FELIX FULD

October 10, 1934

Dear Ed:

I am sending you under separate cover Robbins' book, The Great Depression. Since I wrote you about it an economist has spoken to me on the subject. He tells me that Robbins is a man of fixed ideas, who uses the depression as a hook on which to hang illustrations of his pet theories. I do not know if this is true or not, as I have not read the book and I do not know what Robbins' theories are, but you can have your weather eye out when you read the book to see whether it is really an objective study or whether it is dominated by preconceptions.

In this entire field we are in the same position as the early geologists, who believed in the Bible and who didn't want to discover anything at variance with the Book of Genesis. The so-called laws and principles of economics may really have some general validity or may have arisen out of the special circumstances of the age in which they were developed, as Frankfurter suggested at the last meeting of the Board. That is where you will come in with your fine historical sense.

The assassination at Marseilles yesterday was horrible, but I suspect, sooner or later, inevitable. I wonder whether Europe will ultimately destroy itself by suppression and diplomatic manoeuvring or whether it will learn

Professor Earle

October 10, 1934

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that it is the function of governments to preserve order and justice and let people alone in all of their other thinking and speaking. Have you read Louis Adamic's book, The Native's Return? I read it a year ago and it prepared me for just such an explosion as took place at Marseilles yesterday.

I talked with Bee on the telephone again yesterday, and she assured me that all is well with her and Robin, and that the school is settling down to a happy activity more and more from day to day.

Ever affectionately,

E. E.

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF/MCE

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

October 9, 1934

Dear Ed:

The Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study met yesterday, and Dr. Sabin reported to them her judgment about you, formed on the basis of interviews with you and with Dr. Schaefer. The Board thereupon formally ratified your appointment for a period of two years, at the end of which time I sincerely hope that your health will be such that the appointment can be placed on a permanent basis like that of other members in the Institute. It seemed to me wiser at this moment not to ask for a permanent appointment, but you need have no fear of any difficulty arising on that score.

I shall be sending you in a few days a copy of the minutes of the meeting, which will contain something of the discussion which took place regarding the most hopeful approach to this difficult field. Professor Frankfurter and Mr. Stewart both urged that we should at the outset gather together a few congenial, fearless persons, and leave them to their own devices in the hope that they can, in the first place, make a historical approach, so that we might understand the basis of what are now called economic principles, laws, or, as Frankfurter says, slogans. It seemed to me that your own interest in historical training gives you peculiar fitness for work of this type. I need not say that you and your associates will be entirely free from interference on my part and that of the

Professor Earle

October 9, 1934

- 2 -

Board, and that as the School of Economics and Politics develops it will develop from within, not from without,-as the School of Mathematics has done.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

A. T.

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF/MCE

Beatrice is fine & is winning "Golden Quince".

Confidential

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

October 8, 1934

A regular meeting of the Trustees of the Institute for Advanced Study was held at the Uptown Club, 60 East 42nd Street, New York City, on Monday, October 8, 1934.

Present: Messrs. Aydelotte, Edgar S. Bamberger, Louis Bamberger, Carrel, Flexner, Frankfurter, Friedenwald, Hardin, Houghton, Leidesdorf, Maass, Stewart, Straus, Veblen, Wood, Mrs. Fuld, and Miss Sabin.

There were no absentees.

The Chairman presided.

The minutes of the meeting held on April 23, 1934, having been distributed, their reading was dispensed with, and they were approved.

The following report was presented by the Director and, on motion, was ordered to be incorporated in the minutes of the meeting:

"Since the meeting of the Board held April 23 last the first session of the School of Mathematics of the Institute for Advanced Study was brought to a happy conclusion on May 1. Work, however, on the part of the faculty and the students did not cease with the termination of the academic year. Some of the professors continued their daily attendance at Fine Hall far into the summer, while some of the workers remained in Princeton during the entire summer, despite the excessive heat in July.

During the course of the year it occurred to me that it would work to the advantage of higher education if annually some of these young men and women well trained in modern mathematics could bring into the secondary schools and high schools of the country the newer views of the subject which have come to prevail. I had a number of conferences with the new Superintendent of Schools of New York City, as a result of which the Associate Superintendent in charge of mathematics, Dr. Tildsley, and a committee of teachers of mathematics spent a day at Princeton observing the work of the Institute and the graduate work of Princeton University in mathematics. I am happy to report that several workers have received appointments in the New York City schools. If this experiment can be successfully extended to other large school systems in the country, there will be, as it were, a new market opened up for these highly trained university and post-university students, and it is perhaps not too much to expect that in the course of time the teaching of high school mathematics will be modernized in the United States precisely as during the last twenty years the teaching of high school science has been modernized. We have, I think, to look at the entire educational system as a whole. We cannot do the best possible work in college and in the graduate school or in the Institute unless boys and girls have been properly grounded in the high schools. Thus far the number of persons trained in modern mathematics who have gone into high school teaching has been very small. I hope that the liberal action of the Superintendent of Schools of New York City may be followed

by similar action on the part of superintendents in other cities.

I have already undertaken to communicate with other superintendents in the hope of making opportunities for students of the type now being graduated from the best of our universities and from the School of Mathematics of the Institute.

In addition to those who were seeking opportunities a large proportion of the workers last year were on leave of absence from important institutions: the University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University, Princeton University, the California Institute of Technology, the Rice Institute, University of Vienna, University of Copenhagen, Edinburgh University, University of Michigan, etc. These men have returned to their posts refreshed and stimulated by their experience in Princeton, and I have received evidences of grateful appreciation on their part for the opportunities they enjoyed last year. During the year now beginning a similar group will be in attendance, among them men holding posts in Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Princeton University, University of Cincinnati, Brown University, California Institute of Technology, University of California, University of Chicago, University of Louvain, University of Frankfurt, University of Munich, University of Cambridge, etc. Of the twelve fellows appointed in the field of mathematics by the National Research Council in this country, nine have elected to work at Princeton during the present year, enjoying the combined opportunities of the Institute for Advanced Study and Princeton University, and the European branch of the Rockefeller Foundation has appointed two fellows in mathematics, both of whom have elected to come to the Institute.

The staff of the School of Mathematics is unanimous in the belief that another mathematician, preferably an American, if an American is obtainable equal in ability to any outsider, should be added to the group at an early moment. I believe that this can be accomplished for the present without substantially adding to the budget of the School by temporarily omitting, if it proves necessary, one or two items, because the budget is an elastic budget, namely, the visiting professorship, though I hope very much that, as the resources of the Institute increase, visiting professors in the various schools may from time to time be invited to come to Princeton for an entire year or for a shorter period. On the other hand, it is at the moment more important to strengthen the permanent group than to continue uninterruptedly the visiting professorship. On this subject I shall ask Professor Veblen to speak when it comes up for consideration under the head of new business.

I reported to the Board at the last meeting that the Russian Government had called an international educational conference to meet in Moscow and that the Institute had been invited to send a representative. With the approval of the President and the Dean of the Graduate School of Princeton University, as well as our own mathematical group, Professor Lefschetz, who is Fine Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University and who speaks Russian, was named to represent the Institute. Professor Lefschetz has written me in enthusiastic terms of his reception but has as yet submitted no formal report, inasmuch as he remained abroad to represent Princeton University at an international mathematical conference held in Prague. I shall submit a brief report regarding his activities at the next meeting of the Board.

I devoted two-thirds of the summer to study in Europe with a view to securing a nucleus in the subjects of economics and politics as well as the humanistic studies. It is clear to me that in economics and politics, which should be broadly conceived as the field of social justice, we shall have to proceed somewhat differently from the method pursued in dealing with mathematics. The sort of mathematics in which scientific men are interested today has a history that is at least one hundred and fifty years old. The economics that is in vogue is upon a very different basis. More and more as I conferred with men who are dealing with economic problems both in universities and in public life, I became convinced of the fact that economics ought to be viewed as a clinical science. That is to say, men who are concerned with its teaching and investigation ought also to be men who have been in contact with practical problems of business and government. On the other hand, while the men working in economics must not be aloof from practical life, they ought not to be diverted to the performance of current tasks. William James once said, "We act forwards; we understand backwards." There are thus two dangers to be avoided: on the one hand, the danger inherent in long distance cogitation and theory; on the other, the danger inherent in doing things at the moment empirically. Other sciences - physics, chemistry, and medicine - have had to settle the same problem. In the case of physics and chemistry it has required centuries, and in medicine it has required a full century, and there are vast areas in which the scientific medical man still shrinks from practical activity, though he continued his researches on experimental animals and otherwise in his laboratory. The methods of developing economic science, which

seem to me now to be most promising, bear therefore a certain resemblance to what has happened historically in other fields, though analogies are suggestive as well as dangerous and must not be pushed too far. These methods require infinite patience - the patience of a naturalist, who is willing to observe before he turns to generalization or accepts practical responsibility for the execution of political and economic policies.

A distinguished scientist, with whom I have been discussing the problem of economics from the standpoint of scientific method which I have had to clear up before proceeding to the discussion of persons, has on reflection written me a letter, from which I quote the following:

'Naturally, I am deeply interested in your plan to make a fresh start in economics. America will provide a marvelous experimental field for acute younger men for the next few years. Whatever happens in November, this country is in a state of flux out of which some kind of economic stability has to come; the great question is what as well as when. It will be a matter of years and the end result will be something very different from the old order. I do not think that Russia offers a better field for capable observation and investigation than present-day United States. It's like a great epidemic, plague, etc., to the pathologist - an opportunity not to be invented but suddenly and sharply presented with incalculable potentialities,

If I were asked what constitutes one of the greatest attractions, at this critical era, to the alert, 'prepared' economist mind, I should say America. It's an opportunity which should not be long deferred for quiet study without anything said but for a lot of 'wood-sawing'.

That is the way one would attack a great biological catastrophic experiment such as a devastating disease plague; and the world today, with America in the forefront, is in the throes of another kind of plague - nothing less than a vast biological social plague.'

I have naturally discussed the problems of the Institute with my brother who in the field of medicine had a task not unlike my own.

and it is interesting to find that after the lapse of thirty years since the founding of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research he proceeded in most subjects in precisely the way in which I am proceeding in economics. He has written me as follows:

'I am led back to the beginnings of the Institute in my thinking of economics with you. I judge a kind of new start called for. If you think of the Institute's beginnings, the new start was made with essentially unknown young men: Lovene, Carrel, Opie. The only older man and thoroughly seasoned, although an individual worker strictly, was Meltzer.

Would it not be possible for you to start afresh, one, two, three men in their late twenties or early thirties? I remember your saying that you were planning as though you were in full mid-career. I think that is a splendid attitude. Your contribution might even, conceivably, be greater if you started afresh. The experiment would scarcely be dangerous, as you would surely select able young men, who could be passed on to other institutions in a few years if they failed to reach the high mark of your Institute. But environment plays a share, often a large one, in men's futures. This is surely true of the majority of the Rockefeller Institute members.'

We have thus far two commitments in this field, of the soundness of which I am thoroughly convinced: Professor Mitrany, who is at work in England and who will continue for the present his studies there; Professor Earle, to whom a tentative appointment was given pending his complete return to health. Dr. Sabin, following the instructions of the Board, visited Professor Earle and his physician during the summer, and from her I have received the following letter, dated September 18, 1934:

'In accordance with the directions of the Board of the Institute for Advanced Study, I saw Professor Edward Mead Earle both early in July and late in August of the past summer and have an excellent report to give concerning his physical condition. His physician, Doctor S. W. Schaefer, is very much encouraged, feels confident of his ultimate recovery, and expects him to be able to get back into active work in the not too distant future.

On this account I carried out the authorization of the Board, informing Professor Earle that he would be appointed to a position on half pay with leave of absence for a period not to exceed two years at a salary of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)

a year during his leave, beginning September 1st, 1934.'

Of these two men Professor Mitrany's interest is primarily in government, national and international, and Professor Earle's in economic history. I have a list of about a dozen men in the thirties who have given great promise and who have fortunately not yet committed themselves far in dealing with the complex and controversial questions of economic theory and policy. I hope very much that by the next meeting of the Board I may be able to suggest an additional person to be added to the two whom we have already appointed. There will be no difficulty in securing coöperation on the part of the most distinguished Europeans in the field which the new school covers. I think that without exception the men, with whom I spoke, thought that the conception upon which we are proceeding is sound and important. Everything now turns upon the choice of the proper individual or individuals.

I shall at a later moment in the meeting submit resolutions covering the points, on which I have briefly touched in this report.

I suggested in my last report that I should also like to establish a nucleus in the field of the humanities. This field is one in which it is not difficult to procure at this time men of outstanding importance and ability. I am simply waiting for general financial stability and improvement before making concrete recommendations to the Board in respect to the beginning of a humanistic school.

The question of a site and building has been under consideration more or less actively ever since the Institute was founded. An early decision was rendered unnecessary by the generosity with which Princeton University has shared with the School of Mathematics its facilities in that subject. Meanwhile, I had a leisurely opportunity to think on the ground last year. I cannot say that I have yet reached any conclusion which I am prepared to submit to the Board for consideration.

In respect to building, two diametrically opposed decisions may lead to equally satisfactory results. For example, Fine Hall is a perfect embodiment of academic purpose. It adjoins the laboratories of physics and chemistry. It affords quiet as well as every possible facility for cooperation, and it contains a library, which, so I am told, is ideally adapted to its ends. If one knew Fine Hall only, one would be apt to conclude that, as each school is started, it should have its own Fine Hall. Yet at the other end of the scale, precisely opposite conditions are capable of yielding extraordinarily good results. I was myself a student at the Johns Hopkins University when the University was situated in two converted boarding-houses on Howard Street in Baltimore. There it was located for the two decades, during which it was the most influential educational institution that this country possessed. Everything was improvised - offices, library, and laboratories. The University was made in spite of all shortcomings in the way of buildings and equipment by the brilliant work and wonderful cooperative spirit of the men. I have recently read an address by Sir Joseph J. Thomson, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, England, regarding his own education at Owens College, Manchester, from which I quote as follows:

'In those days the college was a house in which Cobden had lived; it was by no means large and we were much cramped for space. The lectures on engineering were given in what had been the stable, and the drawing office was a converted hay loft. But though the building was so poor, few universities have had such a brilliant staff of professors. There was Balfour Stewart for physics, Roscoe for chemistry, Osborne Reynolds for engineering, Thomas Barker for mathematics, W. Crawford Williamson, the great paleo-botanist, James Bryce, who was afterwards ambassador to the United States, Adolphus Ward, the historian, who afterwards became Master of Peterhouse, and Stanley Jevons, the political economist.'

My conclusion, therefore, is that, whereas in due time, as successive schools are established, we shall try to provide them with

facilities to make coöperation easy, our great task at the present moment is the finding of men. For, while the men can get on without buildings, the building is futile without the men. If they can be combined, as they are combined at Fine Hall, results should be obtained that are as nearly ideal as is possible under human conditions.

I think I may say in conclusion with all modesty that wherever I went in Europe the fact of the existence of the Institute was known and that its possible scope and its present and future importance were appreciated. While we have done absolutely nothing to procure publicity, the quality of the staff and the students has already within the period of a single year made the institution widely and honorably known."

Mr. Hardin, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the report of the Treasurer would cover the subject of finance.

The report of the Treasurer was distributed and, on motion, was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The Director called attention to Miss Sabin's favorable report regarding the physical condition of Professor Edward Mead Earle.

On motion, Professor Earle was made a professor in the School of Economics and Politics and was granted leave of absence for the year 1934-1935 at half pay, viz., Five thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), with the understanding that, if necessary, this leave would be renewed on the same terms for one year from September 1, 1935.

On the suggestion of the Director the Trustees considered methods to be pursued in starting the School of Economics. The consensus of opinion seemed to indicate that the School should be started modestly and as promptly as possible with a small nucleus of young and promising men of unusual intellectual endowment who would be enabled to work without pressure for results.

Mr. Frankfurter held that the social sciences ought to be viewed in somewhat the same light as law. He thought that the analogy to the progress which had been made in the medical sciences likely to be misleading and that the confusion in the realm of economics and politics was due to the fact that there had been too little disinterestedness in their pursuit. He suggested, for example, that the so-called principles or laws of economics ought to be examined in the light of their origin and that it would probably be found that they originated out of the pressure of contemporary phenomena. Something might, he thought, be gained if small groups were brought together for limited periods in the hope of uncovering and defining the real problems. He was certain that nothing could be gained if an inharmonious group were assembled and instructed merely to "research".

Mr. Stewart emphasized the importance of an early start with young men, the question of whose future relationship to the Institute could be determined by their achievements from time to time, and Mr. Veblen suggested that grants-in-aid, such as those now given in the School of Mathematics, would prove an excellent way of bringing men of promising ability to the Institute to work for a year or longer without permanently detaching them from their posts unless they developed unusual capacity. It seemed to be agreed that with the exception of a small permanent nucleus it would be unwise to make many additional appointments for terms of three or five years which would involve the resignation and withdrawal of men from their own institutions and thereby impair the freedom of the Institute in dealing with them.

Confidential

Mr. Frankfurter thought that the director's observations on the proposed school of politics and economics stated the dilemma inherent in grappling at once fruitfully and honestly with the problems of society as an intellectual pursuit. All talk about science in connection with the so-called social sciences is misleading if we mean anything more than the temper of mind which seeks to be as objective and as disinterested as possible and unconcerned with immediate reforms and the practical settlement of day-to-day social problems. Essential to this temper of mind is awareness of the biases, the predilections in which all of us are implicated and the unconscious deflections of which we can only guard against by consciousness of them. In a word, in dealing with social problems, that is the whole field of politics in its broad sense, we must endeavor to pursue purely intellectual ends, at the same time that we are concerned with the most controversial issues of our time.

For disinterestedness in the sense of abstract political problems is to the extent that it is attainable altogether futile. It is highly significant that the great contributions to political science were all contemporaneous documents, that is, they dealt with the contentious issue of their time and were directed towards the promotion of definite political views or goals. Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, the Federalist, all were, as it were, contributions not in abstracto but in the context of their time, and of course the same is true of Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations.

And so in our time we must deal with issues which, however scientifically framed, are enmeshed in an emotional matrix. In this field we are largely still dealing with slogans. These slogans undoubtedly express truths or desires relevant to the time of their origin. These partial truths were then generalized into universals, as is the way of man, and were floated down the tide of tradition, so as to become in themselves powerful forces in men's thinking and action. To that extent I do not think it is helpful to suggest that political science today is comparable to clinical medicine. After all, despite all the obstinacy of tradition that encounters the pioneer in medicine as in all other fields of human endeavor, in any event the obstructions that meet the medical scientist are not those pervasive and permeating emotions and presuppositions that are the very air and interest of man's economic and social life.

And so I believe that the most hopeful mode of attack, if we are to be true to the spirit of science in the field of politics, is historical. By that I mean a painstaking and pertinacious endeavor to analyze the fighting slogans and the rallying cries that give rise to mass loyalties. For all our current terms like "individualism" and "regimentation" and the "profit motive" have a history, were born out of a particular environment or a defined state of society and have been carried over to environments quite different from that of their origin. This means not only

history in the ordinary sense of the term, for adequate history implicates psychological, statistical and legal factors indispensable to a just understanding of economic and political institutions.

In politics, unlike mathematics, there are no half dozen or three or four recognized great men whom one can collect into a great faculty of politics. Mr. Frankfurter thought that the great men must be made, as it were, that the Institute must turn to youngish people and develop them through their actual pursuit under favoring circumstances of problems in politics of major moment. To this end it is important to bring together a group of people who will have a certain harmony of purpose and more or less common conception of the task to be pursued. For one cannot bring together a group of individuals not selected with relation to one another and expect a harmonious interplay of minds. To that end it seemed desirable to Mr. Frankfurter if possible to invite a promising collection of political scientists and economists for a long enough period, say half a year or a year, for purposes of intensive discussion of what the problems of political science are and how they are to be pursued in the hope that thereby the desirable group of distinction will reveal itself.

Phone: Main 2070.

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

30 September 1934

Earle

Dear Alice

Your photograph came. It is an excellent likeness, showing all of those characteristics which we, your loyal and devoted friends, know and admire. I only it could speak!

And speaking of speaking, it really would be joy if you feel disposed to call me up some evening. The conversation is usually excellent and the conversation would involve no unnecessary strain on my voice. Rates are fairly reasonable after 8:30 p.m.

I greatly appreciate your gracious and affectionate letters of the 19th and 26th. The latter enclosed my first checks from the Institute. The check, as you say, is tangible evidence of my connection with the Institute. I feel highly honored and would be especially jubilant had it not been for the unfortunate setback I have had this month. But I shall do whatever may be necessary to overcome that as soon as possible.

Dr. ^{Shepherd} is, I understand, going to write Dr. Solin
some sort of report for your Board meeting. But it will
not, I fear, include the findings of an ex-ray which
we hope to take shortly.

I have just finished with Adam Smith. Here is
a sample of the pungency of his work: Speaking of
the entire system of mercantilism and imperialism, he
says, that it "may at first sight appear a fit project for
a nation of ^{shopkeepers} shepherds. It is, however, a project altogether
unfit for a nation of shepherds; but extremely fit
for a nation whose government is influenced by shop-
keepers."

No more of this abominable snarl of mine
for now. Illegible as it is, it brings my love to
you all.

be always affectionately
Ed.

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

30 September 1934

My dear Mrs. Bailey

I am very grateful for your letter of the 26th. It would be a convenience if you could send my checks to the Bank of the Manhattan Company, Madison Avenue at 43 Street, New York.

Dr. Flureau spoke in an earlier letter of a book by Professor Rostkin of the London School of Economics and asked whether I would like to see it. Some time when you are less busy than you are now, perhaps you could send it along.

You seem like an old friend - I've heard of you so often. Next year I hope we shall meet.

Sincerely yours
Edward Mead Earle

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

September 26, 1934

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

My dear Professor Earle:

I am sending you herewith check of
the Institute for Advanced Study for \$416.66, your
salary for the month of September, 1934.

Very truly yours,

Esther S. Bailey
Assistant Secretary

P.S.

If in future you wish me to deposit your salary
checks to your credit in your New York bank, I shall
be happy to do so, notifying you regarding each deposit.
This is done for the Director and for many of the
professors.

E.S.B.

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

September 26, 1934

Dear Ed:

*Ben Davis -
Please return
to M.*

Mrs. Bailey has just shown me the enclosed check, the first, I hope, in a long series, which you will receive from the Institute, and I also hope that it won't be very long before the amount is twice as large. I cannot tell you how happy I am to take this step. I am not yet ready to make any announcement, but that need not interfere with any of our private satisfactions.

I have been pretty busy since landing what with seeing members of the faculty and catching up with my mail. Now I am leaving at the close of the day and am going to stop at Miss Fine's School on my way home to catch a glimpse of Beatrice and Robin.

With all good wishes,

Ever affectionately,

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

E. F.

AF:ESB

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Director of the Institute

Dear Ed:

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

OFFICE

20 NASSAU STREET

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

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LEWIS H. WEED

LIFE TRUSTEES

LOUIS BAMBERGER

MRS. FELIX FULD

September 19, 1934

I returned from Europe a few days ago with a list of possibilities in the general field of economics and politics, and yesterday I had an interview regarding some of them with Walter Stewart, who is my main adviser. I have, however, not yet settled on any particular person, for the ground is uncertain and ticklish and I want, if possible, to avoid making any mistake.

I have seen Dr. Sabin, and I also met Beatrice at Mt. Kisco where I spent the week-end with Ben and Mary, both of them in excellent health. Beatrice is looking very well and is, I suspect, handling her job with her usual efficiency. She and Miss Sabin told me of the little upset, and Miss Sabin assured me that, while it involved a slight delay, it was of no particular significance.

While I hope that you will see Princeton next autumn, I don't want you to feel that you are bound to do it. The great thing is that, when you get there, you should be well. It won't matter much either to you or to us whether it is a few months earlier or later. You need have no fear as to your status. When we make or print the announcement regarding the School of Politics and Economics, I shall list you as a professor and I shall not emphly even the phrase, "on leave of absence". I shall treat you like a well man, and I want to create in the minds of everybody the feeling that you are a well man. I don't believe we ought to make an announcement of any kind, however, until a nucleus has been assembled, and thus far you and Mitrany are the only persons regarding whom I am clear, but before the winter meeting of the Board I hope to have one or two other fish on my string,

Professor Earle

September 19, 1934

2

and that will suffice for an initial announcement. Nothing will be done respecting the annuity until you yourself direct me to proceed.

I am returning Beard's letter. He is a glorious person, and I have wished many, many times that he were ten or fifteen years younger.

I will not try to call you up, because I am afraid that a long distance conversation may be too much of a strain, but if such is not the case, I will be glad to do it if you will let me know.

Mrs. Bailey thinks I have a decent photograph which will be suitable for your rogues' gallery. I shall send it to you when I get to Princeton.

I am glad that you are re-reading Adam Smith. If only we can manufacture a modern Adam Smith in the next five or ten years, we will have made a tremendous contribution to the clarification of economic thinking. I brought back with me from England a volume on the economic situation by Professor Robbins of the London School of Economics. Would you care to read it? If so, I shall send it to you.

With all good wishes, in which all the members of the family join,

Ever affectionately,

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

u.s.
7

Earle

August 30, 1934

Dear Ed:

I have at last reached Paris, having survived the cure at Gastein and the after-cure at Aix-les-Bains, the latter rendered tolerable by the presence of Tom Jones and Mr. Baldwin, with whom I passed many pleasant and interesting hours.

I am sending a few notes just prior to sailing on the Olympic on September 6.

I am glad to know that you continue to improve, that you have absolute assurance that there is no intestinal difficulty of the kind that might be feared, and I am gratified to know that the Bagdad Railway continues to find a market.

I leave Europe this time with a sense of some relief. Everything is shaky and feverish, though I believe the memory of the war is so keen and fresh that no nation is likely to do any deviltry very soon again. On the other hand, I am mystified by the doings at Washington, and I cannot but feel that a group of able and unprejudiced minds may by devoting themselves to the economic problems of the United States make a really important contribution to the subject.

I had a delightful letter from Beatrice. I am not going to try to answer it, for I shall be seeing her soon. When you write, give her my love and tell her that of course I shall be delighted to help her at Princeton in any possible way.

Write me to Princeton and let me know how you are doing.

With all good wishes to you and Beatrice and Robin from us all,

Ever affectionately,

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

ADHARMA PLEASER

AF:ESB

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

Saturday 15 September '34

Dear Alice

Since last I wrote you all sorts of things have been happening to me. During the last two weeks of August I was up walking a bit and sitting in a chair. And how different the world looked in a vertical, as compared with a horizontal position! Unfortunately, I had a slight spell of bleeding which has sent me back to bed for a month. But Dr. Schaefer assures me that this is rather to be expected, somewhat disappointing, and that he sees no reason for altering his opinion ^{and in large measure by next autumn.} that I shall recover fully. A blood count taken a week after the bleeding was at least since I've been in Colorado Springs. I by no means doubt and hope to see Princeton next autumn.

At the same time, Alice, I should like to feel that you are definitely are taking me "for

better as for money, in sickness or in health,
till death do us part." By this, of course, I do
not mean that the Institute should support
me for the rest of my days should I be a senile
invalid. What I do want, however, is a per-
manent academic home. If after two years
I should be unable to carry my share of the
load, I should expect only to be carried on
at calls in the same manner as I have been
at Columbia and Barnard. And I want you to
feel free to withdraw your offer if I have
misunderstood it in any respect. As you
know, I want more than anything in the
world to get well and be with you, and I'm
doing everything in my power to make that
possible for next year.

I've been reading a good deal. I chose
to re-read Edgar Smith because he wrote
in the midst of a crazy world such as ours.
His work — although, of course, far from in-
fallible — is packed with sound common

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
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COLORADO

across, particularly as regards those matter
interest which inspire international trade.

Well I return to action work, I'll
like a man for Mr. Moore. But I feel definitely
that under the circumstances, as I shall have
no prearranging. And I am assuming you,
like, that my mind is so about and then as
was. I shall not find you, especially as you
have been so generous as to encourage that
it seemed of time is not excessive.

How I should love to see you and
welcome you back home! I miss you
and Ben more than I can say. It would be
good to hear your voice some time, and it
seems true that you might be willing
to telephone me today before some evening.

I have my own wine too alongside my bed.
He sends his. Main 2070. As there is a 3-hour

(difference in time if its you are on daylight
savings, it would perhaps be best to call about
10:30

Until you are prepared to make an-
nouncement of your new appointments, would
you please withhold payments to the Teacher
Lumina and Lumina on my account? It
is possible that, were regular monthly pay-
ments initiated now, they might notify Bar-
nard. And I am very anxious that Miss
Bilensky shall have her first news of
this directly from me. In this, I am sure,
you agree.

It is a joy to know that Business will
be near you this year.

My love to you all

As always

Ed.

Grace Abbott was to see me last month and said
they were happy to have you in the Dept. of Labor.

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

P.S. I had a most delightful letter from
Professor Beard which I am going to send
along for you to read. Please return it at
your convenience.

Also P.S. Sometime when the autumn rush
quiets down, I hope you'll send me an
autographed photo of Abraham Flexner.
I want it for my noques' gallery. I have a
fine picture of Ben but none of you.

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

7 August 1934

Dear Will

Your letter of 20-22 July was a joy. You know that I shall do everything possible to recover quickly, but it is a great comfort to know that I shall not have to feel hurried. Meanwhile, of course, my time will not be wasted. I have enough right now to keep me busy without asking Tregwell or anyone else for bibliography. You will be amused to know that I have been re-reading Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" and finding it, as I did before, full of good sense.

Your choice of Mitromy is admirable. I used to see something of him when he was working for Chatwell, but he probably has forgotten me after all these years.

Regardless to say, I shall keep everything in the strictest confidence until you say otherwise. But I am bristling with pride, happiness, and enthusiasm.

am continuing to improve, although, as you know, this is a very discouraging business at times. But there is an development of great importance since Dr. Lohr was here. We had some fears that, as an aftermath of the dysentery, I might have contracted a tuberculous enteritis. But last week I had a series of intestinal x-rays which showed no tuberculosis and no scars from the earlier dysentery. I have been sitting up in bed with my feet on the floor occasionally, but this is necessarily a slow process. What I am yearning for is the time when I can use my typewriter as well as my eyes and head. My head is still good, Oh, and I shall not fail you, given the necessary time to see this through.

You will be interested to know that my Bayard Railway sold 75 copies last year, eleven years after original publication. The Macmillan Co. tell me this is quite remarkable.

My love to you and Anne and Eleanor.
And my eternal gratitude and devotion to you.

As always affectionately
Ed.

Dr. Whacker Flores
Paris.

Earle

July 22, 1934

Dear Ed:

Since I dictated the above, I have received your two letters of July 10. I am as happy as you and Beatrice about your coming to the Institute whenever it is perfectly safe for you to come. I should prefer if you would postpone writing Miss Gildersleeve until I return to the States in September and have access to the minutes. Then I can send you a transcript of the resolution passed by the Board. As I recall it, the resolution read that you were appointed to a full professorship at a salary of \$10,000 a year, provided Miss Sabin made a favorable report which she has done, that you have leave of absence on half salary, beginning September 1, 1934, and that this leave can be renewed, if necessary, for a second year.

— copy of resolution
attached hereto.

The professorships are all indefinite appointments. The retiring age is 65, which can be extended by mutual consent of the professors and the

trustees. Thus we have an element of elasticity. Meanwhile, the Institute and the professors each pay 5% monthly of the salary into the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, which is the basis of the retiring allowance. Of course, the total sum paid in by both parties is the property of the professor so that in case he resigns from the Institute the accumulations in the Teachers Annuity fund belong to him.

As to your field, I am more and more convinced after conferences with Walter Stewart, who was once at Amherst and subsequently organized the research bureau for the Federal Reserve Board and who was American adviser to the Bank of England and is now as Trustee of the Institute deeply interested in this subject, and similar conferences with everybody of importance in England and in America that, whatever may be the truth or the right about economics, the world wants a fresh approach from various points of view. For obvious reasons we shall have to find young men for this work. By way of self-protection we shall have to get a man of first-rate intellectual ability who knows economics as one member of the group, and I have two or three such persons in mind, from whom I hope we can make a choice this autumn. I hope that you can develop the historic side and perhaps ultimately with particular reference to certain problems that are characteristicall American, as, for example, the disposition of our public

lands, etc.

I am also anxious that the group should contain one or two foreigners because economics, unlike mathematics, is not the same for all countries. I have in mind for the subject of political theory in European politics David Mitran, who is, in the opinion of Shotwell and others whom I have consulted, probably the best equipped person obtainable - well trained, to begin with, in Berlin and London, speaking fluently all modern languages of any importance, and a real cosmopolitan. I think you will have great pleasure in your contact with him, in so far as you keep up your European interests.

When we have found the economist, as I hope we shall in the autumn, I will give you abundant opportunity to communicate with Miss Gildersleeve to whom, I agree with you in thinking, you owe every possible consideration, but I am certain that she will welcome the change for you from a mainly teaching post to a mainly research post and from a large city to the spaciousness and quiet of Princeton where Beatrice will also be happily engaged.

I may also add that in working out the subject of economic theory and history and American economic history you will find constant opportunity for inquiring into the international aspects of the whole subject, for it is more and more obvious that no country leads an economically isolated life.

I realize that the sort of program which I have vaguely outlined is to be regarded as tentative and that every scholar must work out his own salvation, and I want you to realize that there is no such thing as haste in the vocabulary of the Institute. Especially during the next couple of years on account of your physical condition you ought to put absolutely no pressure upon

-5-

yourself intellectually. It will undoubtedly take you time to find yourself in a field that is somewhat different, though not new to you. If you need suggestions as to reading, persons like Tagwell may be helpful, but as to that use your own judgment. The great thing is that we should bring together in the field of economics and politics a group of men of first-rate intellectual ability who can each work out his own problems with such benefit as he may derive from easy contact with his fellows. We appear to have done that in mathematics, though I shall want another year's experience before I do much crowing - and I do not expect to crow even then.

I am perfectly well, but tired. Eleanor is staying on in England visiting friends. Mrs. Baile is going to the Pyrenees for her vacation. Anne and I go to Badgastein in Austria, just across the Austrian border for a month.

I should be glad to hear from you, but don't bother to write much. My address while I am abroad will be c/o Rockefeller Foundation (see page 2 of this letter).

The formal letter, which you suggest, I shall write as soon as I return to Princeton.

Ever affectionately,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER
P.S. Institute salaries are paid at end of month. A



July 20, 1934

HOTEL MIRABEAU

8, RUE DE LA PAIX

PARIS

TEL (CENTRAL 0230-0931)
(LOUVRE 0151)

Dear Ed:

On reaching Paris today I found a letter from Miss Sabin which gave me the keenest delight. She reports that you are getting on splendidly and that you are expecting shortly to be able to begin once more to use your feet.

She was, as she told you, authorized to inform you of the arrangement regarding the appointment and salary, though we shall make no public announcement at present. I feel sure that a group of youngsters, whose minds are open, can make a fresh start in economics if they are not hustled, as none of you will be. Above all, take your time now and allow nothing either mental or physical to interfere with your recovery. Time doesn't matter, as far as we are concerned. The great thing is that your patience shall be ultimately rewarded, so that you will have an opportunity for the use of your superb mind.

Anne joins me in affectionate greetings to you both.

If I knew her address, I should write Beatrice, but you can send her this letter of mine.

Perhaps you wouldn't mind dropping me a card c/o Rockefeller Foundation, 20 Rue de La Baume, Paris (8), France, letting me know how you are.

Ever affectionately,

A. E.
7

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 No. Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

July 22, 1934

Dear Ed:

Since I dictated the above, I have received your two letters of July 10. I am as happy as you and Beatrice about your coming to the Institute whenever it is perfectly safe for you to come. I should prefer if you would postpone writing Miss Gildersleeve until I return to the States in September and have access to the minutes. Then I can send you a transcript of the resolution passed by the Board. As I recall it, the resolution read that you were appointed to a full professorship at a salary of \$10,000 a year, provided Miss Sabin made a favorable report which she has done, that you have leave of absence on half salary, beginning September 1, 1934, and that this leave can be renewed, if necessary, for a second year.

The professorships are all indefinite appointments. The retiring age is 65, which can be extended by mutual consent of the professors and the



HOTEL MIRABEAU

8 RUE DE LA PAIX

PARIS

TEL. CENTRAL 06-30-08-31
LOUVRE 01-51

-3-

trustees. Thus we have an element of elasticity. Meanwhile, the Institute and the professors each pay 5% monthly of the salary into the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, which is the basis of the retiring allowance. Of course, the total sum paid in by both parties is the property of the professor so that in case he resigns from the Institute the accumulations in the Teachers Annuity fund belong to him.

As to your field, I am more and more convinced after conferences with Walter Stewart, who was once at Amherst and subsequently organized the research bureau for the Federal Reserve Board and who was American adviser to the Bank of England and is now as Trustee of the Institute deeply interested in this subject, and similar conferences with everybody of importance in England and in America that, whatever may be the truth or the right about economics, the world wants a fresh approach from various points of view. For obvious reasons we shall have to find young men for this work. By way of self-protection we shall have to get a man of first-rate intellectual ability who knows economics as one member of the group, and I have two or three such persons in mind, from whom I hope we can make a choice this autumn. I hope that you can develop the historic side and perhaps ultimately with particular reference to certain problems that are characteristically American, as, for example, the disposition of our public

lands, etc.

I am also anxious that the group should contain one or two foreigners because economics, unlike mathematics, is not the same for all countries. I have in mind for the subject of political theory in European politics David Mitrany, who is, in the opinion of Shotwell and others whom I have consulted, probably the best equipped person obtainable - well trained, to begin with, in Berlin and London, speaking fluently all modern languages of any importance, and a real cosmopolitan. I think you will have great pleasure in your contact with him, in so far as you keep up your European interests.

When we have found the economist, as I hope we shall in the autumn, I will give you abundant opportunity to communicate with Miss Gildersleeve to whom, I agree with you in thinking, you owe every possible consideration, but I am certain that she will welcome the change for you from a mainly teaching post to a mainly research post and from a large city to the spaciousness and quiet of Princeton where Beatrice will also be happily engaged.

I may also add that in working out the subject of economic theory and history and American economic history you will find constant opportunity for inquiring into the international aspects of the whole subject, for it is more and more obvious that no country leads an economically isolated life.

I realize that the sort of program which I have vaguely outlined is to be regarded as tentative and that every scholar must work out his own salvation, and I want you to realize that there is no such thing as haste in the vocabulary of the Institute. Especially during the next couple of years on account of your physical condition you ought to put absolutely no pressure upon



-5-

HOTEL MIRABEAU
8, RUE DE LA PAIX
PARIS

TEL (CENTRAL 09-30) (09-31)
(LOUVRE 01-51)

yourself intellectually. It will undoubtedly take you time to find yourself in a field that is somewhat different, though not new to you. If you need suggestions as to reading, persons like Tugwell may be helpful, but as to that use your own judgment. The great thing is that we should bring together in the field of economics and politics a group of men of first-rate intellectual ability who can each work out his own problems with such benefit as he may derive from easy contact with his fellows. We appear to have done that in mathematics, though I shall want another year's experience before I do much crowing - and I do not expect to crow even then.

I am perfectly well, but tired. Eleanor is staying on in England visiting friends. Mrs. Bailey is going to the Pyrenees for her vacation. Anne and I go to Badgastein in Austria, just across the Austrian border for a month.

I should be glad to hear from you, but don't bother to write much. My address while I am abroad will be c/o Rockefeller Foundation (see page 2 of this letter).

The formal letter, which you suggest, I shall write as soon as I return to Princeton.

Ever affectionately,

A. J.

P.S. Institute salaries are paid at end of month. A.F.

2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colo.
July 10, 1934

Dear Abe:

By this time you have probably heard from Dr. Sabin, who was here last Thursday. She saw Dr. Schaeffer and I believe Dr. Webb and received from them assurances that, barring some unforeseen contingency, we might reasonably expect my return to the East in the autumn of 1935. She then brought me the good news that you were now in a position to offer me definitely an appointment with the Institute. I cannot tell you how happy it made us all, for it seemed as if at last there might be a turn in this long difficult road. I also cannot tell you how grateful I am to you for your continued loyalty and confidence; they have meant more to me, I think, than almost any other single friendship in the last eight years.

I am afraid you will find the enclosed letter very formal and formidable. It was not intended to be either. I have written it for two reasons: First, because I felt perhaps you would want something of the sort for your records and, second, because we were all so excited when we talked over the appointment that I am afraid we were a little incoherent at times.

As you know, I have never resigned from Barnard and Columbia. As soon as I hear from you that I understood everything correctly, I shall write to Miss Gildersleeve, who will, I am confident, be enthusiastic about the prospects for work with you. I hope she will be sorry that I am leaving Barnard as I am sorry to sever a tie with her which always has been most cordial. But, as you know, my work really lies in more advanced research and teaching. In addition to that the opportunity to work with you means more to me than anything else.

Dr. Sabin suggested that until I had an opportunity to hear from Miss Gildersleeve it would be a necessary courtesy to withhold announcement of my appointment to the Institute. If it seems agreeable to you perhaps a definitive public statement might be made upon your return in the autumn; thus letting my friends know that I am still alive and not yet on the shelf. I know, however, your desire to ward off publicity and I am willing to leave this entirely in your hands.

Not the least pleasant of Dr. Sabin's instructions was that I could buy at the expense of the Institute any books which might seem to me to be useful. Needless to say I shall use this privilege with discretion and shall retain all books so purchased for the Institute library, with the exception of a few which I might conceivably wish to mark for reference purposes.

As for my work, I understand that eventually you will wish me to be active in the field of economics. Would you mind, however, for the present if I went at the matter from an historical point of view—that is to study economic history and the history of economics. I feel something like a man who is at the mouth of Chesapeake Bay in a rowboat with instructions to explore all the head-waters. Sometimes I may not seem to be making very rapid progress and sometimes I may seem to be going around in circles, but I shall be trying to reach a definite objective nevertheless. I have had so

- 2 -

rich and varied a training in the field of American foreign relations that it occurs to me that some of my work may be directed along the line of studying American international policy. I wonder whether you will agree that such may be the case.

All of the above sounds very long-winded but it really carries beneath the surface a very profound appreciation of the opportunity which lies before me and also a very deep affection for you.

Beatrice left for the East this afternoon, happy in the prospect of her new work and enthusiastic about its possibilities.

I dislike to break into your summer holiday with any business but I am sure that you would want me to write you as soon as possible.

With best love to you and Anne,

As always,



Dr. Abraham Flexner
In care of Rockefeller Foundation
20 Rue de la Baume
Paris, France

Autumn

2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colo.
July 10, 1934

Dr. Abraham Flexner, Director
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

My dear Dr. Flexner:

Dr. Florence Sabin called on July 6 and on authority of your Board of Trustees offered me a professorship in history in The Institute for Advanced Study. I am, of course, deeply appreciative of the honor and gladly accept, subject to my release from Barnard College and Columbia University.

If I understood Dr. Sabin correctly the conditions of the appointment are to be about as follows:

1. I am to be named professor in the Institute at a salary of ten thousand dollars per annum.

2. The appointment is to be effective September 1, 1934. During the academic year 1934 to 1935, however, I am to be on leave of absence at half the regular stipend. We all anticipate, of course, that I shall be able to return East in the autumn of 1935; but if by any unhappy chance I should be unable to take up residence in Princeton at that time, the leave of absence will be extended under the same conditions.

3. Nothing was said about tenure and I presume the usual academic standards will prevail.

Am I correct in all of this? If so I should be happy to have your confirmation to that effect.

Sincerely yours,

Edward Mead Earle

EME:GD

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PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

New York City
June 9, 1934

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LIFE TRUSTEES
LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

Dear Mrs. Forsyth:

You must excuse my failure to reply more promptly to your charming note of June 6th. I was called to Washington a week ago, and while there received a long distance message which made it imperative for me to come to New York immediately and to sail for Europe just as soon as I could get my affairs in shape.

Meanwhile Mrs. Earle telephoned me and told me how charming and kind you and your associates had been and how happy she is in the prospect of her work at Miss Fine's School. I was also delighted to hear from Mrs. Bailey that she had met some of the teachers at Martha's Kitchen and that they had spoken with the greatest enthusiasm of their contact with Mrs. Earle and of the address - if I remember correctly - which Mrs. Earle made at the Commencement. I feel sure that the school is now headed by a person of really first-rate intelligence, extraordinary integrity, high ideals, and great skill in everything that pertains to personal relationships. Mrs. Earle is not technically a school mistress, but I regard this as altogether in her favor. You will, I think, find that she will proceed slowly, so as to make sure, before she makes any recommendation or acts. She will pick up the technical details with rapidity, and she will always remain a lovely, charming, and wise human being.

When, in the course of a year, her husband comes to Princeton, the school will really benefit, because she will have at her right hand one of the wisest and ablest men I know.

As far as I am concerned, I have now a personal interest in the success of the school which I might otherwise have been long in developing, and I will consider it a privilege to help you and your associates, if you will allow it, as far as I possibly can, without interfering in any wise.

Mrs. Flexner and our elusive daughter join me in greetings to you and your husband and children. We shall see you in the early fall, and I trust that we shall see more of you next year than last. I saw Jean in Washington. She is as busy as can be with her work and extremely happy in it. She asked about you and wishes to be remembered to you.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely your friend,

Abraham Flexner
Abraham Flexner

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May 28, 1934

Dear Ed:

I have your note of the 22nd. Since then Beatrice has come, seen, and conquered, at any rate, as far as the Committee on Nominations is concerned, and I suspect that the Board will confirm the recommendation of this Committee. I have really never seen Beatrice to better advantage than in conference with Mrs. Forsyth. She was restrained, wise, modest, and yet showed a quick comprehension of the kind of problem she would have to deal with.

I am mailing you this morning a prospectus of the New School for Social Research in the field of Political and Social Science. I shall finish Weber's book tonight and mail it to you tomorrow. It is a perfectly awful translation by a Harvard man, who apparently was afraid to put Weber's ponderous German into lucid English, which could have been easily done by an accomplished translator. Weber himself, as I learned long ago, is one of the most stimulating men in Germany in his field. I am also going to send to you Tawney's Religion and the Rise of Modern Capitalism and Beard's The Idea of National Interest.

Don't push yourself in the matter of reading, for some of this may be pretty hard sledding, and I feel sure that your mind ought not to get too active. Take it in small doses, increasing as you feel yourself able to increase.

Professor Earle

May 28, 1934

- 2 -

Our summer plans are still vague, for I have several matters that are hung up on account of the illness of persons with whom they deal. I don't really yet know whether we shall be able to go to Canada, or whether I may have to make a brief trip abroad, but I hope to get the thing settled within the next week or ten days. Meanwhile, there will always be somebody at 20 Nassau Street, and mail will be forwarded to me wherever I am.

With all good wishes, in which Anne joins,

Ever affectionately,

G. J.

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF/MCE

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

22 May 1934

Dear Mr.

Thanks for the copy of "Business Recovery
Program", which I shall examine shortly. I
am almost finished with Gauss's "6 Principles
for Tomorrow". Gauss has a number of inter-
esting ideas, although, as you say, the volume
is more a clear statement of certain obvious
facts rather than a contribution to knowledge.
I find myself thoroughly in agreement with
his statement on p. 126 that the terms "political
science" and "political scientist" are incapable
of definition and should be discarded.

Sometime at your convenience I should
like to have Weber's "Protestant Ethic" and
Tawney's "Religion and the Rise of Modern
Capitalism." When I can work out a co-
ordinated plan of reading, I propose to

trace backward all of our economic "doctrines",
see how they originated, what was their influence,
and what constituted their principal fallacies -
in short, how we have accumulated this
vast mass of "knowledge" which seems out
of touch with reality.

Could I also have Ben's recent
book "The Idea of National Interest"?

By this time Ben will have seen
you. Like you, I hope she lands the job
- Princeton or, at least, some job which
will re-establish her contact and mine
with the world. * Colorado is a wilderness
not only physically but intellectually.

I am glad to see that your brother Simon
is the biographer of Dr. Welch. I hope
you and Ben meanwhile will preserve the
archives of the Alvares family - that's a
biographical job I could do with great
always affectionately

Ed
You know, I have enormous respect for Ben's
ability.

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LEWIS H. WEED

May 12, 1934

Dear Ed:

I have your fine letters of May 3rd and May 8th.

Don't press either your thinking or your reading, but if you feel that you are up to reading Weber or Rivers, let me know and I will send the books to you, and, of course, we can send you anything else that you would like to read; but once more, don't do anything that can in the slightest degree interfere with your continued convalescence.

Many thanks for your nice words about our anonymous gift. I should still want another million before feeling that the new school is adequately financed, but I believe it can be obtained without great difficulty.

I have not seen Miss Sabin since she saw Dr. Schaeffer, but your own feeling and Bee's telegram this morning that you continue to improve are the best possible evidence.

I don't know Mr. Davies. It is too bad that he should be President of Colorado College if he lacks scholarly interests, but don't let incidents like this disturb your mental equilibrium. They will continue to happen in this country for a long time. Meanwhile, the hopeful thing is that things of the most severe intellectual nature, like this new School of Mathematics of ours, are widely appreciated, both in this country and abroad.

Professor Earle

May 12, 1934

- 2 -

I remember quite clearly the Fountain Valley School. Things of that kind have no roots and cannot last. I don't believe it is worth while to waste even a flea on Mr. Harkness. He knows how to take care of applications of this sort.

We have had a very slow spring, as you have doubtless learned from others. Many of the shrubs have been stunted, but in this last week the trees have made great progress, so that Princeton is almost at its loveliest.

The Director of the Institute for Social Research at the University of Frankfurt on the Main was here last week. His Institute has been dismantled by the Nazis and he and all his co-workers are scattered, some in Geneva, some in Paris, and some in London. Their endowment seems to be safe in Amsterdam, where they moved it in good time, but they have lost a beautiful building and, in all probability, a library of seventy thousand books. He is thinking of settling quietly here in Princeton for a year to write a book, the manuscript of which was almost completed when the Nazis confiscated it. Now he needs repose for physical restoration and mental quiet.


I saw Ben and Mim the other day when I had to go to New York, and found them both in very good shape.

I shall look forward to seeing Bee and Robin. I do hope that Bee will land the job here.

Anne joins me in love to you all.

Ever affectionately,

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado



AF/MCE

2200 North Tejon Street

Colorado Springs

3 May 1934

Dear Helen

Your two letters of 24 and 27 April brought me great joy. It is a tonic to know that in the not-too-distant future I shall be counted definitely on the staff of the Institute. Meanwhile I shall put forth every effort to prepare myself for the distinctness in economics and politics which I know you hope of me.

By some strange process of telepathy I, too, had come to the conclusion that the wisest first step would be a thorough study of the history of economic thought before we should be bold enough to tackle any specific problem — by this means, perhaps, we shall be able to discover the origins of some of our worst mistakes. I have not yet received the book by Dean Gauss and am not acquainted with the books by Rivers or Weber. Stanley Bee will make a survey of what material there is available in the library of Colorado College. I may then be presumptuous enough to send you a list of the most conspicuous omissions with the hope that the Institute may be able to send them to me. I shall read a good deal and think much of what I read and, meanwhile, continue the certain, if slow, process of getting thoroughly well.

I was delighted to read in The Times of the gift of a million dollars by an anonymous donor. May it be the first of many!

Bee understands thoroughly the delay in the matter of Miss Finis's school. She still hopes to be chosen. ~~She~~ She and Ruth (now completely recovered) are planning to go back shortly anyway; so that if you feel her presence on the ground would be useful she would be willing to come on at any time, without anybody's incurring any obligations. We realize, as

you say, however, that it would be altogether unwise to push
the matter further until the School Committee is prepared to make
a decision.

Affectionate wishes to you all, dear friends

Always loyally

Ed. Earle

Dr. Abraham Flexner

Princeton, N.J.

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HONORARY TRUSTEES

LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

April 27, 1934

Dear Ed:

I am sending you under separate cover a book which I have been reading by Dean Gauss of Princeton. I do not find the conclusion persuasive, but the point of view seems to me - though not new - one that is very suggestive. I wonder whether our own School of Economics and Politics could not make a real contribution, not so much by the study of contemporary problems of currency, tariff or whatever, as by a philosophical, historical account as to how our present dogmas came into being. When that is once understood one of our main obstacles to rational social organization will have been removed.

Do you know Rivers Psychology and Politics or Weber's Protestant Ethic? If you do not I could send you both if you are in the mood to read material of this sort. Do not, however, bore yourself.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

h.t.

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF/MCE

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20 NASSAU STREET

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

CABLE ADDRESS: VANSTITUTE PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

April 24, 1934

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HONORARY TRUSTEES

LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

Dear Ed:

Thank you very much for your sweet note of April 18th. Our brother's death was a great shock, though we had known for over a year that it was bound to come. None the less, the snapping of a cord like this is always painful and involves the difficulties of adjustment. I owe to him more than to any human being living, for at a time when we were poor and the outlook of our family was hopeless he had the courage and vision to send me to Johns Hopkins, an act which directly changed the course of all our lives.

I have had another conference with Mrs. Forsyth. She does not want to put Bee to the trouble of coming here unless there is the prospect of securing an appointment. She herself is very favorable toward her after what she has learned from Dean Gildersleeve and from me, but she is dealing with a committee and has to proceed warily.

We had a meeting of the Board yesterday, and there is no question that you will receive an appointment in the School of Economics and Politics, with leave of absence for a year, whenever the moment seems timely. I should like you to put everything else out of your mind in order to let your thoughts play at your leisure - not intently enough to interfere with your

Professor Earle

April 24, 1934

- 2 -

convalescence - on the subject of economics, for I am persuaded, as are others with whom I have talked, that we shall get nothing out of our present economists, but may hope for real results if men with fine history training and background, like yourself, turn their attention to the subject of economic problems. It is not a question of primary interest or training; it is a question of brains. Some years ago the most distinguished of English physiologists was killed in an airplane accident. The Secretary of the Medical Research Council took the breath away from everybody by suggesting that he should be succeeded by A. V. Hill, who had made a brilliant start in mathematics at Cambridge. Hill knew nothing of economics and had not even dreamed of going into the subject. Fletcher persuaded him that England needed him and that he could do it. He yielded and in five years' time won the Nobel Prize in physiology. I, as you know, never studied anything in the world but Greek, but my work has led to general education, medical education, and everything except Greek.

I hope that Robin has made a complete recovery. Anne joins me in love to the three of you.

Ever affectionately,

Abe

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF/MCE

From minutes of regular meeting April 23, 1934.

RESOLVED, That Dr. Sabin be and hereby is authorized while in Colorado Springs in the summer of 1934 to see Professor Edward Mead Earle and his physicians and to report the results of her conference and observations to the Director. It is authorized in the event that the results are favorable to offer Professor Earle a position on half pay with leave of absence for a period not to exceed two years at a salary of Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) a year during his leave, beginning September 1, 1934.

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MRS. FELIX FULD

March 31, 1934

Dear Ed:

I have had a very busy week seeing people, so that I am dealing this morning as briefly as I can with accumulated correspondence. I ought to reply, however, to your two notes, dated March 25.

What you say in answer to the questions contained in my letter to Bee seems to me perfectly sound. I feel sure that a trained historian, gifted with intellectual curiosity, could accomplish a great deal in the economic field. Ditto: a lawyer like Frankfurter, if he will drop law. I am/about mathematicians for the reason that you yourself mention. Yet it may be that there are certain aspects of the field with which the right kind of a mathematician could deal advantageously. The mathematicians in the Institute are so highly specialized that I doubt whether they would be of much help except perhaps to criticise an economist's mathematics.

As to the personal point you raise, I wish you would once and for all clear your mind of doubt. We are going to take you on whenever you and Dr. Webb feel that you are equal to it, and it is much more important that, when you do come, you should come for good than it is that you should come by any particular date. Whenever you come, the wind will be adjusted to the shorn lamb. There is, as you will see from the last bulletin sent to you, no kind of routine. My

E.M.E.

March 31, 1934

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idea is that you would make a very gradual start, watching yourself very carefully, having abundant rest and a long vacation under ideal conditions. So don't let that bother you.

I shall talk to Ben when I next see him respecting the financial problem which faces us in the near future.

I still have traces of that infernal tonsillectomy, and the weather has been so damp and cold that my neuritis is still worrisome, but I am undoubtedly better in spite of the successive setbacks (Is there such a word?) which come with every lapse into cold, damp weather.

Give our love to Bee and Robin, and believe me

Ever affectionately,

Alle

Professor Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

Friday evening
25 March 1934

Dear Helen

If you will forgive a pencilled scrawl, I should like to answer your note of the 16 addressed to Ben. I have given a good deal of thought to the questions you raised. I agree with you:

1. That, without any exception of which I know, our present day economists are not by training or experience or results likely to contribute much to the solution of the present-day world-wide confusion. Also they have sacrificed their claim to public service and are not likely to receive much of a hearing either — in a world of action or in a world of scholarship.

2. That a well-trained mind, free from preconception, is fairly adaptable to the investigation of the problems of the day. Economics is no fearful and wonderful mystery which is beyond the grasp of a good intellect. Your own experiences are full of instances of men trained in one field

king by that success in another

I have confidence in the ability of a well-trained historian to travel out into other fields. The best historians I have known are possessed of enormous intellectual curiosity and, at the same time, are properly cautious in their appraisal of evidence. Also they are really men who possess the ability to report their findings in intelligible language. (I sometimes think in this connection of Beard. He was originally interested in historiography. Then he set to work on a biography of Alexander Hamilton, only to unearth material on it that led him to a study of the course of historical and political research in America. He even made a deep impression on lawyers and the law. But you know enough of his work to appraise all of this for yourself.)

A mathematician would, I think, have one pronounced drawback in the field of economics. It is that he would almost certainly place too much reliance upon the statistical method, which has been along with metaphysical abstraction - a besetting sin of the professional economist. And anybody you brought to the Institute

2200 NORTH TEJON STREET
COLORADO SPRINGS
COLORADO

2
would be able to draw on the resources of your
institution in any case.

Have you considered the possibility of
an able lawyer or, better, a brilliant student
of law? Frankfurter is an outstanding example
of what a brilliant legal mind can do in oc-
casional ventures into other fields. Beale, whom
you mentioned once before, as I imagine too
much absorbed in the day-to-dayness of things
to serve the purposes of the Institute.

I gather that you have practically determined
on economics and politics as the next branch of
the work of the Institute. Therefore, I hope
sincerely that what I have written may be of
some use; it represents some thought on Beale's
part, also.

As always

Ed

Sunday evening
25 March 1934

Dear Abe:

I have given a good deal of thought to the questions you raise in your note of the 16th. I agree with you:

1. That, without any exception of which I know, our present-day economists are not by training or experience or results likely to contribute much to the solution of the present-day world-wide confusion. Also they have sacrificed their claim to public confidence and are not likely to receive much of a hearing either in the world of action or the world of scholarship.

2. That a well-trained mind, free from preoccupation, is fairly adaptable to the investigation of the problems of the day. Economics is no fearful and wonderful mystery which is beyond the grasp of a good intellect. Your own experiences are full of instances of men trained in one field being brilliant successes in another.

I have confidence in the ability of a well-trained historian to branch out into other fields. The best historians I have known are possessed of enormous intellectual curiosity and, at the same time, are properly cautious in the appraisal of evidence. Also they are mostly men who possess the ability to report their findings in intelligible language. (I sometimes think in this connection of Beard. He was originally interested in historiography. Then he set to work on a biography of Alexander Hamilton, only to unearth material on the Constitution which, as you know, profoundly changed the course of historical and political research in America. He even made a deep impression on lawyers and the law. But you know enough of his work to appraise all of this for yourself).

- 2 -

A mathematician would, I think, have one pronounced drawback in the field of economics. It is that he would almost certainly place too much reliance upon the statistical method, which has been - along with metaphysical abstraction - a besetting sin of the professional economist. And anybody you brought to the Institute would be able to draw on the resources of your mathematicians in any case.

Have you considered the possibility of an able lawyer or, rather, a brilliant student of law? Frankfurter is an outstanding example of what a brilliant legal mind can do in occasional ventures into other fields. Berle, whom you mentioned once before, is, I imagine, too much absorbed in the day-to-dayness of things to serve the purposes of the Institute.

I gather that you have practically determined on economics and politics as the next branch of the work of the Institute. Therefore, I hope sincerely that what I have written may be of some use.

As always,

(Signed) Ed

(Edward M. Earle)

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LOUIS BAMBERGER

MRS. FELIX FULD

March 16, 1934

Dear Beatrice:

I am writing to you partly to tell you that we are well and that my arm is on the whole distinctly better and partly to inquire about you and Ed and Robin. I was practically snowed in here in Princeton during the entire month of February, for we had one blizzard after another. The spring is making pathetic, but as yet unsuccessful, efforts to get through. It has been the severest winter the country has experienced in a half century or more.

In the long hours when I have sat in a warm room and have had nothing particularly to do my mind has been playing about the subject of economics and politics. I have the feeling that the world is at this moment a great political-economic laboratory and that developments in this field ought to be observed and studied with a more fully unbiassed mind than the economists either in this country or abroad possess because they have all been brought up on a pretty definite economic and political philosophy, and it is no easy task to rid one's self of one's prepossessions. I feel myself therefore at the moment almost driven to get someone who has not been trained in economics but who has shown distinct ability, to enter that field.

I am writing this to you because I don't know whether Ed ought to be thinking about anything so important as this at this moment. You will be

Mrs. Earle

March 16, 1934

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the judge as to whether to show him this letter or not. Perhaps I have been influenced in this method of approach by what happened in England shortly after the war broke out. The most distinguished of English physiologists, Keith Lucas, was killed in an aeroplane accident. The question arose as to what would happen to English physiology which had for so long been the most eminent physiology in the world. Sir Walter Fletcher, a younger physiologist, had a great inspiration. He went to a brilliant young mathematician, A. V. Hill, and suggested that he drop mathematics, as there were mathematicians enough in England, ^{and} turn to physiology. Hill was naturally reluctant but agreed to think it over, though he had never had any particular interest in the subject and really knew nothing about it. After a brief delay he accepted. He brought his splendid mental endowment to bear upon the subject and, mirabile dictu, within five or six years won the Nobel Prize in physiology. He is one of the two or three most distinguished physiologists in the world today. It seems to me we ought to be able to do the same thing with economics by getting hold of a brilliantly endowed historian or even perhaps mathematician. If this is not too exciting a topic for Ed at the moment, I should like to get his reaction to it, but there is no hurry.

We are all well and would have absolutely nothing to complain of if we could just have the assurance that the winter had packed its grip and left.

Anne joins me in love to you all three.

Ever sincerely,

Mrs. Edward M. Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

A. J.

AF:ESB

October 17, 1933

Dear Ed:

I was delighted with your telegram. Don't let anything excite you. The Institute is going to be a long-lived affair, and it is a matter of very little importance just when we start any particular thing. Keep cool, retain your courage and optimism, and I am perfectly sure that your fondest wishes will be realized.

Professor Einstein reached America today, and Mayor O'Brien with an Irish-Jewish Committee waited for him at the pier with motorcycles, a brass band, prominent citizens, and God-knows-what-else in the midst of a pouring rain and at eight a.m. at that! Meanwhile, I had gone to Washington and arranged with Secretary Hull and the Treasury Department to have a motor-boat meet Einstein at Quarantine about six a.m., debark him and his party, and motor then all to Princeton. Imagine what happened when the Westernland landed at 23d Street, and there was no Professor Einstein, he being in Princeton about the same time. Sam Untermeyer called my office about four times, and Mrs. Bailey - lying devil that she is - professed to know nothing of my whereabouts. Thereupon he called up one of the Trustees in New York and gave him the devil, saying that he was as sore as a crab and made to look ridiculous, to which the answer obviously was that he had brought the thing upon himself and had himself and his associates to blame for their position. When I saw Einstein a little later in the morning and told him the story, he shook with laughter and glee. The rest of the day has been spent in repelling reporters, no

R.M.E.

Oct. 17, 1933

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one of whom has gotten access to Einstein. I think I will resign as Director of the Institute and go into the detective business. How about it?

Anne joins me in love and best wishes.

Ever affectionately,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Edward Mead Earle
2200 North Tejon Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

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AS YOUR LETTER OCTOBER TWELFTH TO HOPE THAT I MAY BE
ABLE TO WORK WITH YOU AND INSTITUTE WILL REDOUBLE
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HONORARY TRUSTEES

LOUIS BAMBERGER
MRS. FELIX FULD

October 12, 1933

Dear Ed:

We had a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on Monday, at which for the first time the subject of the School of Economics and History was discussed. Walter Stewart was present, and I previously had asked him to think the thing over and give us his views. They coincided with the views which have been gradually maturing in my own mind, namely, that we cannot begin in economics and history with a group of seasoned and distinguished persons as we have begun in mathematics - Einstein, Veblen, etc. - but that we shall have to take younger men and give them opportunity to show what is in them. So far I had gone on my own thinking. Stewart went further. He made the point that, inasmuch as economists have almost all published things, they have committed themselves to one form or another of economic thinking, whereas the economic world in which we are now living should be re-examined and not particularly from an economic point of view but from an historic point of view. He was strongly in favor therefore of starting off in the field of history with younger men, who would find themselves able to delve into the economic aspects of historical study. He is reading your book on The Baghdad Railway and likes it very much. Miss Sabin and I both spoke of you as having known you from our own personal experience and as having been recommended to us by Professor Beard. I thought you would be interested to know that things are moving and that your name has actually been mentioned to the Board in connection

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Dear Mr. Hartley - months has ^{encouraged} ~~been~~ me as much as
your letter, ^{between} ~~to~~ hope that I may be able to work
with you ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{gratitude} ~~will~~ ^{all} ~~efforts~~
for recovery. With optimism ^{regarding} ~~for~~ immediate and ultimate
results. Hope your health steadily improves Affectionately
as always

Ea.

Professor Earle

October 12, 1933

2

with the next school which we shall organize within a reasonable period of time -
no hurry.

I hope you continue to improve. We are finding life here at Princeton
very delightful.

Did you see the account of the Institute published in the Sunday Supplement
of The Times, October 1? If not, I shall send you a copy. It was on the whole
pretty well done, although of course somewhat too journalistically for my taste. Would
you believe it? We have now practically twenty students in mathematics, almost
without exception persons who have reached the rank of assistant or associate professors
in this country or in Europe and who are here on leave of absence, the institutions
paying them half salary even in these hard times. That will give you some idea of
the attractive force of the mathematical group, which is really quite wonderful.
In fact, now that Göttingen has been wrecked by the Nazis, there is nowhere in the
world as large and able a group of mathematicians as is formed by the combined Prince-
ton and Institute groups.

I have talked to Bee over the telephone, and I am hoping very much that
she and Robin will come down to spend a week-end with us in the near future.

I continue to improve, but I am not as yet equal to a full day's work.
I find that a tonsillectomy is by no means the joke which it is cracked up to be.
Luckily, my routine is a light one, and a few hours a day in the office is all that
is absolutely required of me now. I had to go to New York Monday for the Board
meeting. It was my only visit there, and I shall not go again for any less reason.
It is no place for a human being.

With lots of love from Anne as well as myself,

Ever affectionately,

P.S.

Please give my warmest greetings to Dr. Webb.

A.F.

A. J.

Earle

September 15, 1931

Dear Bee:

Many thanks for the extremely helpful comments which you and Ed have sent me. You have both had a most illuminating experience which I have not had and therefore anything that comes from you is likely to be valuable. I have had an extraordinary amount of absolutely inconsistent advice. My own inclinations are naturally with you and Ed, but some distinguished scholars have urged me to formulate a code regulating the relations between trustees, director, professors, etc. I cannot help reflecting that any code that I formulate now would probably be a terrible obstacle a few years hence and that no code will restrain an unprincipled man, who is out of sympathy with the objects for which this institution exists.

I came to town last Friday and found the heat excessive. Though a little cooler today, it is still very uncomfortable. Anne and Eleanor remain at camp and will, I hope, stay there until almost October 1.

Ben and Min are back, and Ben looks particularly well, better than in years.

I hope that Ed continues on the up grade. Do let me hear from you if only but a card every week or two.

With love to you all three,

Ever affectionately,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Dear Al

We read and reread your report and
have so much to say that we couldn't put
it in the margins.

We agree most heartily with your emphasis
on smallness of both plant and personnel.
That seems to us one of the most important
traits to keep; also with simplicity and a
certain measure of isolation; also with a
inconspicuous and inexpensive administration as
possible. All of that seems to us fine.

✓ On page 2 you speak of "cooperative"
administration. What does that mean? If
it means merely representation of the Faculty
on the Board of Trustees, we think that
is fine and important; but if ~~the~~
cooperative administration implies any large
measure of participation ~~of~~ ^{by} the Faculty in
matters of business or even of departmental
routine, we are suspicious of its success.

[Bee's experience at the New School for
Social Research in 1920. made her realize
that scholars just can't cooperate in this sort

of detail. Robinson believed that there should be little or no administration and that the entire group of scholars could carry on things very simply. The result was that a few conscientious hardworking souls were swamped - and their important work suffered - and the rest did nothing. The result was dissatisfaction and inefficiency all around.

Ed. believes that any considerable measure of administrative responsibility has a demoralizing effect on real scholarship, even such duties as generally devolve upon the chairman of a department in the ordinary University. The formal routine of departmental meetings, he believes that what departmental business has to do should be simplified as much as possible and can ^{or should} be conducted at informal luncheon discussions, providing always that the Institute maintains its primary ideal of limited numbers and simplicity of purpose.]

A. F. probably agrees with all of this and feels just as strongly. But we've

both seem these since in action and so
emphasize them.

P. 5 "Faculty government" would seem to us
futile and ineffective. Our impression is that
scholars should be let alone as much as
possible and that the ablest of them do
not want to be bothered with self government
(The early years of the new school showed
that!) They would much prefer to be relieved
of all administrative duties, provided the head
remain always a cultivated, understanding
person who will assume the burdens of
government.

P. 9. The experimental attitude toward it
all seems to us very important. Regarding
the first step - mathematics - we are both
thoroughly ignorant. There are very obvious
advantages of beginning with it. Ed has
only one query? Doubt mathematics
being well done, in its non-philosophical
aspects, in some of the best technical
schools in this country (specifically, e.g. in
California Institute of Technology) this is

frankly a query. (I don't know. We presume that you have in mind some unusually able persons, however, who could make definite contributions to this field.

P. 10.

E.M.E. wants very much to talk with you about some ideas he has regarding economics. This is too long to write but can be talked about, we hope, when you come thru here - which we hope will be this autumn.

In general, we think the plans, so far, are excellent and that the goals you know definitely, such as simplicity and smallness, are of the greatest importance.

Earle

Magnetawan, via Burks Falls
Ontario, Canada
August 11, 1931

Dear Beatrice:

I am sending you and Ed a confidential draft of a report which I shall make in October. I should like you to read it aloud to Ed, if the doctor permits, and pencil on it any suggestions that he makes. It represents only one step further but shows the direction in which my mind is moving. Does this look like a paradise for scholars or not?

We continue our glorious weather here and are all well.

I spent the week-end at Chicago with my oldest brother who is better, though still seriously ill. The news from Ben and Min is very good. Tomorrow Eleanor and Anne return. Their letters have been buoyant and enthusiastic, and we are looking forward to a very happy getting together party.

All of us join in love to the three of you.

Ever affectionately,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mrs. Edward M. Earle
Cheyenne Mountain
Colorado Springs, Colorado

AF:ESB

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December 18, 1930

Dear Ed:

Your letter moved me profoundly, for I could not but admire tremendously the calm courage and the lucid manner in which you told what must be confessed to be a dreadful story; but, as you are master of yourself, I shall waste no words in vain regrets. You have lost a year - that is the sum and substance of it - and you have another siege before you that is not pleasant to contemplate, but you are man enough to endure it. As Longcope and Hamman have been absolutely candid with you, I believe you can trust their judgment that you will come out of this thing a sound man. As I wired you, Ben will see you tomorrow or next day. Our teeth are set, and we are going to see this thing through, and we must subordinate everything, in my judgment, to your welfare. Bee is a glorious and devoted wife, and she is playing for a great stake, namely, your health and your unified happiness and usefulness for many, many years to come. You are both young and in the long run the sacrifice of her own immediate happiness which Bee may have to make will weigh for little. It will shrink to a pinpoint in the perspective of the next thirty years.

I will not in a letter try to give any specific advice, for you and Ben with the help of Dr. Longcope can work out the details far better than I. I cannot, however, but think that a new place like Colorado would be far better

Prof. Earle

Dec. 18, 1930

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for your spirits and for your health than a return to Saranac. You will get more sunshine. You will be in new surroundings, you will meet new people, and you will be in touch with persons whom you and Bee know out there.

As for your future, don't worry. Once restored to health, you will be embarrassed by the positions which will be open to you. Meanwhile, in the process of getting well you may have a tedious time, but you can make it interesting. You can make it subservient to your continued intellectual development.

I shall myself arrange to see you just as soon as I know how long you are likely to stay in Baltimore. I have had nothing recently from Dr. Longcope or any of his associates, but I assume that Longcope will write me.

Here is a very amusing story! Dr. Julius Sachs was sitting in the Century Club yesterday next to a vacant chair. President Butler entered, took the chair, shook hands with Dr. Sachs, and said, "Dr. Sachs, your friend, Abraham Flexner, has written a brilliant book." Mrs. Sachs told me the story last night over the telephone. I asked her what Dr. Sachs replied. She said that he was so flustered that he could not recall what he had said.

Anne joins me in affectionate greetings to you and in profound admiration for your courage and clear-headedness.

Ever affectionately yours,

A. J.

Professor Edward M. Earle
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Marburg Building
Baltimore, Maryland

AF:ESB

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WLT = Week-End Letter

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Received at 66 N. BROADWAY, BALTIMORE, MD. WOLFE 6617

1930 DEC 18 PM 12 02

BRAC24 63 DL=PS NEWYORK NY 18 1048A

PROF EDWARD M EARLY=

JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL MARBURG BLDG=

BOTH LETTERS RECEIVED PROFOUNDLY SYMPATHETIC BUT UNDAUNTED
BEN AND I WILL SEE THIS THING THROUGH YOUR COURAGE AND
WISDOM ARE BEYOND ALL PRAISE HAVE NO FEAR FROM YOUR FUTURE
CAREER YOU HAVE SUFFERED A REPULSE BUT NOTHING REMOTELY
RESEMBLING DEFEAT BEN AND MARY WILL SEE YOU TOMORROW OR
NEXT DAY AND DISCUSS FUTURE WITH YOU LOVE ADMIRATION AND
BEST WISHES FROM US ALL=

ABRAHAM FLEXNER • •

Y TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE