

✓ WOLMAN, LEO

Biographical

Economist

Born Baltimore, Maryland, February 24, 1890

Son of Morris and Rosa (Wachsman) Wolman

Education: A. B., Johns Hopkins, 1911
Ph. D., 1914, Johns Hopkins

Honors: LL. D., 1948, Johns Hopkins

Career: Teacher, Hobart College, 1915, Johns Hopkins, 1915-16,
1917-18, University of Michigan, 1916-17
Member faculty School for Social Research, 1919-28
In charge research Amalgamated Clothing Workers of
America, 1920-31
Professor economics, Columbia, since 1931

Activities: Trustee Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York
Director of the Clark Equipment Company
Chairman Interstate Commission on Unemployment
Insurance Special agent U. S. Commission on
Industrial Relations, 1914, Council National
Defense, 1947

Chief of Section on production, statistics, War
Industries Board, 1918
Attached to American Peace Mission, Paris, France,
January - June, 1919
Member advisory Committee U. S. Unemployment
Conference, Washington, 1921
Lecturer at Harvard, 1930
Research staff, National Bureau of Economic
Research, Chairman Labor Advisory Board N. R. A.
Member National Labor Board
Chairman Automobile Labor Board, Member American
Economic Association, American Statistics
Association American Association Labor Legislation
(Pres., 1934)
Phi Beta Kappa
Associate editor Journal of American Statistics/
Association, 1920-34

Home: 993 Park Avenue, New York 28, New York

Who's Who in America, Volume 27, 1952-1953

1938

BIEFLER, WINFIELD W.
STEWART, WALTER
CLAY
WARRER
✓WOLMAN

7/14

Biographical

Biefler to Flexner, July 14, 1938.

He has had four days of sessions of the Delegation on Business Depressions at Geneva which, he says, were the high spot of the trip, as high a level as any discussion he has ever experienced. The fact that the League has lost political influence seems to have thrown it back on the one asset left; namely, its ability to serve as an intellectual center. In this case it seems to be reaching the level of a super-university. Carter Goodrich has appointed Biefler a delegate to represent the International Labor Office. Biefler is looking forward to his participation with great anticipation. He has learned of Stewart's cable to Flexner on his arrival, and a great load rolled off his heart. Stewart he has been in touch with. Stewart says Clay hadn't yet made up his mind, and was going to take his vacation.

Biefler then addresses himself to the virtues and the value of

allowing Clay to retain his citizenship, and above all, his contacts in England. Clay, he says, has been identified with the same kind of questions on a factual basis that Stewart and Kiefner have been identified with in America. He has also continued close contact with European and American economics. He is thoroughly familiar with the factual work recently done in England such as that now being inaugurated on a larger basis by Hall and Beveridge. He has been one of the main factors in starting work of that character, and he has kept his relationship with all of the groups of opinion in Britain.

Furthermore, "there has in recent years been a great flowering of theoretical economics in England, some of it of a very high quality. The main trouble with it from the American point of view is that it has been so filled with controversy that frequently Americans have difficulty distinguishing between contributions which are basic and distortions of emphasis that represent little more than the heat and fire of a controversial situation..."

"I saw a great deal of Wolman and Warren and Stewart together on the boat coming home and feel that you should seriously consider adding

Wolman as well as Warren to the group. This differs radically from my original suggestions because at that time I was trying to work out a group which would be able to focus on all the varied problems of the economic scene from a rather unified point of view, mainly finance. It was from this point of view that I wrote the recommendations which I submitted to you...It is now clear, however, that I failed to convince Stewart. Consequently I do not want to impede the setting up of an effective unit in economics by continuing to make recommendations in terms of an objective which has already been more or less passed by. The most important requirement after all is that the Institute possess a group that can work together effectively. If additional appointments are made in economics they should carry out this group idea, otherwise it would be better to turn the endowment to other uses." / We should make Stewart as happy as possible and let him feel "I was continually struck on the boat coming home with how much more ready he was to enter into free and open economic discussions with Wolman than with anyone else with whom I have observed him in recent years. It made me realize as never before how much the interplay of his mind with Wolman's meant to him. If he is to work effectively again in our field, he simply must have this kind of interplay and I think we should do all we can to give it to him.

D Wile, Bi-flier, Winfield S., 1938-1939

1938

5/24
5/28

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organisation

FLEXNER, WINFIELD W.

Biographical

STEWART, WARREN

WARREN

✓ WOLMAN

Flexner to Riefler, August 24, 1938.

Stewart and Warren have been visiting Flexner at Magnetawan.
"Warren's mind is moving slowly, but our long talks have convinced me
that his intellect is a first-rate instrument."

Riefler to Flexner, August 26, 1938.

"Steady Hay told me the other day that he understands that Stewart,
Warren and Wolman are starting out on another trip through the south
in September. This seems to me to confirm my earlier conclusion that
they form a natural group, which should not be broken up.

B File, Riefler, Winfield W., 1934-1939

1943

4/27

TRUSTEES

Corporation

✓WOLMAN, LEO

Biographic al

Wolman to Aydelotte.

Leo Wolman accepts nomination to the Board of Trustees. "As you no doubt know, I have been familiar with the work of the Institute from the days of its inception, and there have been many occasions in which I have talked about it to my old friend, Abraham Flexner.

D File, Leo Wolman

1943

4/27

✓ WOLMAN, LEO

Biographical

Copy of a letter from Leo Wolman to "ydelotte, April 27, 1943, accepting his invitation to become a member of the Board of Trustees. "This is an honor which I accept with pleasure. As you no doubt know, I have been familiar with the work of the Institute from the days of its inception and there have been many occasions on which I have talked about it to my old friend, Abraham Flexner. I welcome this opportunity to become associated with you and to participate in the work of the Institute."

JRH Correspondence from January, 1940 to November, 1945

1943

8/9

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

COMMITTEES

Corporation

WOLMAN, LEO

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

Aydelotte to Wolman, August 9, 1943.

He asks Wolman to attend a conference before the meeting of the Finance Committee (to which Wolman has been appointed) to discuss retirement of some of the older members of our Faculty. He wants an informal discussion with a group of the Trustees.

D File, Leo Wolman

1943

12/14

MOE, HENRY ALLEN

Biographical

✓WOLMAN, LEO

AYDELOTTE, F.

Moe to Aydelotte, December 14, 1943.

He and Leidesdorf rode back to New York with Wolman who raised the question about discussions concerning the future of the Institute. "Mr. Leidesdorf and I said that you had been carrying on these discussions with members of the Board and just hadn't gotten around to Dr. Wolman yet. I suggest you do so as soon as you conveniently can. Wolman has some ideas of his own and in particular wants to be sure that discussions on the matter of the future of the Institute are under way."

D File, Henry Allen Moe

1944

10/23

DIRECTOR

Administration

TRUSTEES

Corporation

FLAXNER, A.

Biographical

✓ WOLMAN, LEO

MAASS, H. H.

AYDELOTTE, F.

Copy of a letter received by Maass from Flaxner DATED
above and copied by Aydelotte in longhand:

"Dear Mr. Maass:

"I have your letter of October 20th. Technically
what I did I had no business to do, but somebody had
to act. For two years no one of the Trustees ever
raised a question regarding Dr. Aydelotte's capacity
or incapacity. The man who set the ball rolling was
Dr. Wolman. There was no use talking things

over with Mr. Aydelotte, for he had been aware of the problem for two years, and I had spoken with him previously and he had done nothing. I could not bring it before the Trustees on my own responsibility. You might have done it or any one of the other trustees.

"My interview with Panofsky took an unexpected turn. He and I had been talking about our families and our vacations. I asked him about his department. He told me that he had one worker, Dr. Frankl. I asked him, 'What about de Tolnay?' He burst out in a rage, 'de Tolnay is a paranoic.' I said, 'Paranoiacs do not write masterpieces on Michaelangelo.' He rejoined, 'I have not spoken to him for over two years and I shall not speak to him again as long as I live.'

"As a matter of fact, Panofsky had a similar experience with Miss Belle Greene. He told me once that she had hurt his feelings. I said to him, 'The Institute needs the Morgan Library, and I am going to make an appointment for you to see Miss Greene. If you don't keep the appointment I shall bring the matter before the Board of Trustees with the recommendation that you be dropped.'

"He kept the appointment and the Institute's relations with the Morgan Library have been most cordial and intimate from that day to this.

"Inasmuch as neither the Director nor any member of the Board of Trustees had taken any action with respect to Panofsky and de Tolnay, I do not regret that the matter came up and that I put the match to the powderbox. I explained the whole situation to my brother, Simon, and it may interest you and the Committee to know that he said that in view of the inactivity of the Director and the Board he was glad that I had done something which was the business of the Director and the Trustees to do long ago. He told me that a somewhat similar case had arisen at the Rockefeller Institute, and he cleared the matter up in 24 hours. I have nothing to apologise for or to regret. The air is clear and the problem definite, concrete and urgent. You are at liberty to show this letter to the entire Committee.

"I need hardly say that if it can be of any use to you^x or to the Committee I shall be happy to be called upon, though I prefer to say and do nothing until after the Committee has

made its report. I do not intend to attend the Board meeting at which the report is presented. I may add that for the first two years of Dr. Aydelotte's administration I attended the Board meetings regularly and always commended his reports though I never approved their form. When I realize that Dr. Aydelotte was doing nothing, and that he could accomplish nothing, I ceased to attend the meetings of the Board. Some months before his death Mr. Hamberger asked why I did not attend the Board meetings and I explained candidly my reasons. He asked me henceforth to attend and I did so as long as Mr. Hamberger lived. As far as I recall I have attended no meetings since except the meeting held in his memory.

"Sincerely yours,

"Abraham Flexner

"af:esb"

PA Confidential Files, March 7, 1957

1955

12/21

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

Academic Organisation

BENEFITS

Academic Personnel

✓WOLMAN, LEO

Biographical

STEWART, W.

WARREN, W.

Interview with Leo Wolman, December 21, 1955.

Filed in Vertical File under Interviews.

Interview with Leo Wolman, December 21, 1955.

1956

9/25

ECONOMICS (P. 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16)
DIRECTOR (P. 6)
SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES (P. 6, 7)
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (P. 7, 8, 11)
PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATION (P. 9, 13)
POLICIES (P. 12)
BUILDINGS AND GROUND (P. 6, 7, 15, 16)
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION (P. 16, 18)
STEWART, W. W. (P. 1, 5, 13, 14)
FRANKFURTER (P. 2, 5, 9, 17)
CLAY (P. 4)
RIFLER (P. 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15)
✓WOLMAN (P. 4, 17)
VINEY (P. 5, 8)
AYDELOTTE (P. 6)
VEHLEN (P. 1, 16)
STRAUS (P. 7)
PANOFSEY (P. 7)
SCHRÖDINGER (P. 7, 8)
OPPENHEIMER (P. 9, 17)
WARREN (P. 10, 11, 16)
BUCHANAN, NORMAN (P. 1)
FIS (P. 13)

Academic Activities
Administration
Academic Organization
Relations WDAI
Academic Personnel
Administration
Facilities
Foundations
Biographical

Interview with Mr. Stewart, September 25, 1956.
Filed in Vertical File under Stewart Interviews.

1957

5/3

BENEFITS (1, 2, 3)

SALARIES (1)

FACULTY (2)

TRUSTEES (2, 3)

DIRECTOR (2, 3)

ECONOMICS (4, 5, 6, 7)

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICS (4, 5, 6, 7)

SCHOOL OF HUMANISTIC STUDIES (5)

✓ WOLMAN (1, 2, 4, 7, 8)

AYDELOTTE (1, 2, 3, 8)

DE TOLNAY (1, 2, 3)

PANOFSEY (1, 2, 3)

EARLE (2)

VEBLEN (2, 5)

MOE (2)

FLEXNER (2, 3, 8)

EINSTEIN (3)

CLAY (7)

VINER (6)

WARREN (6)

BAMBERGER (3, 5)

STEWART (4, 6, 7, 8)

RIEPLER (4, 5, 7)

MAASS (5)

OPPENHEIMER (5)

Academic Personnel

Corporation

Administration

Academic Activities

Academic Organization

Biographical

Interview with Wolman, May 3, 1957.

Filed in Vertical File under
Wolman Interviews.

6/7

MEMBERS

Academic Personnel

PRINCETON

Relations WCAI

✓ WOODHEAD, GEOFFREY

Biographical

Not a Ph. D. Enrolled as Commonwealth fellow at Princeton Graduate School to work entirely with Meritt at I. A. S. (Interview 6/7/56, p. 14) Avoided formalities and helped make an epigraphist.

Interview Meritt, 6/7/56