

November 6, 1935

Honorable John G. Erhardt
The American Consul General
Hamburg, Germany

Dear Mr. Erhardt:

I am informed by Professor Courant that the application of Miss Ilse Benfey for an immigration visa has not been granted probably upon the ground that there is some doubt in your mind as to the permanency of the position of her employer in this country, Professor Courant.

I am writing to say that Professor Courant has a life post at New York University on a salary which makes it absolutely certain that Miss Benfey will be a permanent member of his household and that under no circumstances will she become a public charge. I trust that under these circumstances you may feel able to grant her a visa which will enable her to remain in this country permanently.

With all good wishes and high regard, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
November 3, 1935

Mrs Esther S. Bailey,
Institute for Advanced Study,
20 Nassau Street,
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Since I always am afraid of bothering Dr. Flexner too much with minor personal matters I turn first to you with the request to act as a filter which will keep away from him matters not worthy of his personal attention.

My present trouble is this: The American Consul-General, Mr. John G. Erhardt in Hamburg, Germany, has refused an immigration visa to Miss Ilse Benfey, a very close friend of my wife, and, so to say, the backbone of our household. She came with us to this country last year and returned to Germany in order to change her status and then to join again our family. - The chief reason of the refusal was doubt on the side of the Consul concerning the permanence of my position and apparently a general lack of evidence for my competence to vouch for her.

Now, N.Y.U. has written a reassuring letter to the Consul, but I am told that it may be of the greatest value to have letters of support from some prominent citizens. Since the presence of Miss Benfey would relieve my wife of pressure of domestic problems I wonder whether Dr. Flexner could write a few lines addressed to the Consul General, Mr. John G. Erhardt, Hamburg, Germany, and so adding to the weight of my own representation to the Consul.

If you think that writing such a letter would be the least troublesome to Dr. Flexner, please say nothing to him about it. If not, it would be the simplest thing to have the letter sent to me, so that I may include it with the documents I am about to send to the Consul directly from here. I might mention that I have already secured a similar support from some prominent business man in New York.

With kindest regards also from Mrs. Courant, I am

sincerely yours,

R. Courant

May 2, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

Many thanks for your very kind note. I wonder if I can ask you to tell Dr. Schiffer that instead of seeing him Saturday or Sunday of this week I shall see him Thursday or Friday of next week. Perhaps you could arrange for a definite appointment at a late hour either day in New York at the Hotel Ambassador, for I shall be down town, and it will be very easy for me to stop there on my way home.

We were all delighted to see you on Saturday.

With all good wishes to you and your family,

Very sincerely yours,

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
May 1st 1935

Dr. Abraham Flexner
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I have spoken to Dr. Hans Schöffner whom I mentioned in our conversation last Saturday and who would be very glad to have an opportunity of meeting you.

Dr. Schöffner has been Secretary of State in the German Ministry of Finances for a period of about 12 years. He is an intimate friend of Brüning and has been in charge of all the international financial negotiations since the revolution until the dismissal of Brüning, whom he joined. After that he was Generaldirektor of the Ullstein publishing house. After the rise of the nazis he resigned. He was asked to become an adviser of the Chinese Government but preferred to accept an offer from Norman Davis to act as a member of a small group of experts who are liquidating the Kreuger and Toll match trust. In this capacity he is now in New York for a short while.

Schöffner certainly is not only one of the outstanding international financial experts and one of the best informed man concerning practical economics but also interested in general cultural questions and activities.

Thus if you really should have time to see him on Sunday or Saturday afternoon it might give you some pleasure. In this case please let me know so that I can make the appointment. But, my no means, you should put yourself into any inconvenience. (By the way, Schöffner is staying in Hotel Ambassador, Park Avenue.)

With most cordial greetings and again many thanks for all your kindness

ever yours,

R. Courant

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

April 4, 1935

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

Delighted to meet you New York 150 East 72 Street

Friday at six pm or shortly thereafter

Abraham Flexner

Charge Institute
for Advanced Study

Courant

April 12, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I am now sending to Professor von Laue, giving him a formal invitation to visit America as a guest of the Institute. Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your letter to Herr Jeldels. I am returning herewith his letter to you. I have also spoken to President Dodds and he will send a letter of invitation in behalf of Princeton University.

You did not stay too long on Friday evening. I simply forgot that our appointment was for 7:30 instead of 8:00. We had no difficulty in keeping it.

My wife joins me in warm regards and best wishes to you and Mrs. Courant and your children.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF:ESB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

April 10, 1935.

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In connection with our conversation I wrote to Dr. Jeidels according to the copy enclosed herewith. I hope very much that my statements as far as you are concerned are correct.

As to the financial arrangement with Jeidels I think it would be the best if the letter of invitation to Laue would mention that a sum covering the steamship fare will be held at his disposal in Berlin. Then the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft could simply pay the corresponding amount to Laue in behalf of the Institute.

I hope very much that my staying so long in your house last Friday did not put you into any inconvenience and that you did not get too tired.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs. Flexner

yours very sincerely,

R. Courant

1 encl.

den 10. April 1935

Dr. Otto Jeidels
Berliner Handelsgesellschaft
Charlottenstr. 33
Berlin W 8.

Lieber Herr Dr. Jeidels:

Vielen Dank für Ihren Brief und die Offenheit, mit der Sie darin über Ihre Bedenken sprechen. Ich schätze mich sehr, dass meine Briefe anscheinend den Eindruck erweckt haben, als ob durch Überaktivität für L. die Gefahr einer schiefen Situation entstanden sei. Nach intensiver Selbstprüfung muss ich sagen, dass ich mich in dieser Hinsicht nicht sehr schuldig fühle. Jedoch bin ich besonders unter den gegebenen Beschränkungen ein schlechter Briefschreiber angesichts der Aufgabe, Ihr Unbehagen durch eine andere Beleuchtung des Sachverhaltes zu zerstreuen. Zu meiner persönlichen Rechtfertigung will ich nur sagen, dass ich mich tatsächlich in der Angelegenheit allen amerikanischen Stellen gegenüber völlig zurückgehalten habe; nachdem L.'s Freunde hier mit mir zusammen überlegten, was geschehen könnte, um L.'s explizite ausgesprochenen Wunsch in einer würdigen Weise zu erfüllen, bestand meine Mitwirkung im wesentlichen in der Korrespondenz mit Ihnen.

Das Wesentliche aber ist, dass Flexner, mit dem ich nach seiner Rückkehr von einer Reise vor ein paar Tagen gesprochen habe, um ihm Ihren Brief zu zeigen, Ihre Bedenken nicht teilt. Er betrachtet vielmehr die Einladung wirklich als Sache seines Instituts, wo sich insbesondere A.E. sehr dafür interessiert, und er sagte mir, dass er die Einladung nach Erledigung einiger Formalitäten in wenigen Tagen abschicken würde. Ich nehme an, dass er selbst ein paar Zeilen an Sie schreiben wird.

Das Institut wird durchaus auch Mittel für die Einladung bereit stellen. Ich verstand aber Flexner so, dass er die finanzielle Mitwirkung, die ihm hier angeboten wurde, sowohl die Hilfe, die Sie in Aussicht gestellt haben, annehmen will. Ich glaube daher,

den 10. April 1935

- 2 -

dass die offizielle Einladung neben dem Angebot eines bestimmten Betrages für den Aufenthalt hier die Mitteilung enthalten wird, dass die Kosten für die Ueberfahrt im Auftrage des Instituts in Berlin zu L.'s Disposition gehalten werden würden. Die Einladung soll zum Herbst erfolgen, da das Institut bereits Anfang Mai Ferien hat. L. wird voraussichtlich auch noch eine Reihe kleiner weiterer Einladungen von anderen Universitäten erhalten. Es zeigt sich, nachdem das Gerücht von der Möglichkeit seines Besuchs hier aufgetaucht ist, dass überall ein grosses menschliches und wissenschaftliches Interesse für ihn herrscht. Alle sind davon überzeugt, dass seine Reise für ^{alle} ~~die~~ Beteiligten erfreulich und erspriesslich verlaufen wird.

Persönlich geht es uns hier weiter recht gut, abgesehen von einigen leichten, aber langwierigen Erkrankungen, die aberhoffentlich jetzt alle überwunden sind. - An meiner Russen Stellung hat sich bisher noch nichts geändert. Ich habe aber allmählich recht guten Kontakt mit den Studenten und einigen Kollegen gewonnen und sehe deutlicher die grossen Möglichkeiten der New York University. Trotzdem auch in Amerika noch alles unklar und unsicher aussieht, sind wir alle nach wie vor begeistert von dem Lande. Auch meine Kinder fühlen sich sehr wohl.

Wie geht es Ihnen und wann können Sie wieder einmal herüber?

Viele herzliche Grüsse, auch an Ihre Frau

Ihr

signed R. Courant

Courant
1936

December 14, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I have yours of the 13th regarding your conference with Weaver. This week both Fosdick and Weaver are busy with meetings. I am hoping to see Fosdick at the beginning of next week and I shall speak with him and with Weaver both at that time. Meanwhile I think it would be best to let the matter rest.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF/MCE

note
R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

December 13 1936

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner :

The other day I had a long conversation with Dr. Weaver about my plans at N.Y.U. and my hope to get some material help from the Rockefeller Foundation. Weaver was really sympathetic and made the statement that, under the former general policy of the Rockefeller Foundation, there would have been a rather good chance for some help. But he was doubtful in view of the more recent tendencies of the foundation. However, he wanted to discuss the matter with his colleagues.

Under these circumstances I feel that it might be of some avail if - provided that there is a natural occasion - you could back me up with Dr. Weaver and Mr. Fofsdick. Of course I also should like to see Mr. Fofsdick personally, if this seems suitable. But I don't want to do this so to speak over the head of Dr. Weaver.

Incidentally Dr. Julius Goldman to whom I wrote two weeks ago, did not yet reply.

With many kind regards
ever yours

R. Courant

RC:AS

December 8, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I am sending to Professor Riefler the memorandum which you dictated this morning and copy of the enclosed letter as well as the curriculum vitae of Dr. von Waldheim.

With kind regards to you and your family, in which Dr. Flexner joins, I am

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

C O P Y

FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION
of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Executive Offices

451 California Street
San Francisco, California

October 20, 1936.

Dr. Harald A. von Waldheim
Sequoia Apartments
Haste & Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, California

Dear Dr. von Waldheim:

In acknowledging, in behalf of the Foreign Trade Association, our debt of gratitude to you for your crystal clear analysis and interpretation of Japan's industrial and foreign trade program, we wish also to say that you won the deep respect and admiration of all who heard you speak at our luncheon yesterday.

Comments reported:

"The best talk we ever heard."

"I could have listened to Dr. von Waldheim for another hour and one-half." (You terminated all too soon even though you observed closely the 1:30 hour for adjournment.)

"He knows what he is talking about."

"A very fine meeting." Etc., etc.

We agree with these comments. Your treatment was desirably objective, yet the significance of your implications was not lost to us.

You may refer to us program committees of other organizations who may be considering engaging you. Any time you are in San Francisco we should welcome your call at our office, and extend to you an invitation to be our guest at any of our Monday luncheon meetings.

Yours very truly,

FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION OF THE
SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
(signed) Wm. L. Montgomery, Manager

WLM:RM

October 31, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

It is very, very kind of you to be as much interested in my health as you are. I have myself thought of going to Carlsbad some summer, but Europe is such an unhappy place that until it quiets down I think it would do me more harm than good to go there. Meanwhile I have steadily improved and am indeed feeling better now than at any time in the last several years.

If I should have a backset I should be delighted to see Lichtwitz, but it would, I think, be a mistake to change doctors when I have made as much progress as I have made in the last year or two.

With all good wishes and very deep appreciation,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF/MCE

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

October 24, 1936

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Please do not consider it an impertinent intrusion if I write today in a absolutely personal way.

Since I saw you the other week in New York and talked to you about the Carlsbad cure I always wondered whether you might have done something in this direction. I cannot express how much all your friends and admirers are interested in knowing that everything possible is being done to keep you in good health. Moreover, I know from bitter experiences of many years how badly troubles of that kind can upset one's whole existence, (without being really serious) ~~the~~, and how comparatively easy it is sometimes to get rid of these troubles.

I gathered from a remark by Panofsky that you perhaps have not yet done anything in this direction. I know that you easily can have the best medical care available in this country. But I feel that in such a case it might not be unwise to consult ^{also} some first rate authority with a thorough European experience in ailments for which Carlsbad has proved so miraculously efficient. By chance, we have here Lichtwitz who was not only considered as one of the absolutely outstanding German internal doctors, but particularly as the first authority in troubles like yours seem to be.

Therefore I venture to suggest or, if you do not mind, to urge you to see Lichtwitz sometime soon. I have the feeling that his medical advice might be just what you need now. Lichtwitz whom I saw the other day would of course be only too glad, if he could be of some service to you.

RECEIVED
JAN 15 1962

RECEIVED

Lichtwitz' downtown office is: 667 Madison Avenue, N.Y.C.
Telephone: Regent 4-8680; his office hours are on Tuesdays, Thurs-
days, and Saturdays by appointment. Appointments can be made by
ringing up in his down town office or in the Montefiore Hospital,
Gunhill Road, Telephone: Olinville 2-3800.

With best wishes,

ever yours,

R. Courant

150 East 72nd Street
New York City

June 3, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

Returning to town, I find your kind note of May 29. I also have a letter from Miss Ewald telling me that she has a post for this summer.

I see no reason why I cannot see you here in New York sometime between now and the date of your sailing. Won't you telephone me early next week (Whineland 4 - 2278) and we will make an appointment?

Jeidels wrote me about the operation which his wife had undergone. I do hope that her arm will now heal completely.

With warm regards to you and your family,

Ever sincerely,

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

May 29, 1936

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your kind letter concerning Rose Wauld. She is now in Columbus, but we expect her back in the beginning of June.

I am sailing for Europe June 13th, although I rather would like to stay in this country. It would be a great pleasure for me if I could come once more to see you before that date either in Princeton or in New York. There are quite a few things about which I should like to tell you and have your advice. Perhaps Mrs. Bailey could drop me a line whether, when and where such a call is feasible now.

I had letters from Jeidels. Mrs. Jeidels underwent a rather painful operation by Professor Sauerbruch, but now there is hope that her arm will be all right again.

Many kind regards,

ever yours,

R. Courant

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

Monday, May 11, 1936.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I am writing to introduce Miss Rose Ewald, the 19 year old daughter of very near friends the eminent Physicist Paul Ewald from Stuttgart and his wife Ella Philipson. Rose is coming to stay with the Ladenburgs a day or so. She arrived a week ago quite alone to make her way and possibly that of her family in this country.

We very rarely have seen such a combination of natural charme and tact with courage and firmness. Therefore my wife and I think it justified to send her to you. We are sure that it will be a pleasure for you to see her and to give her your assuring advice.

With all our best wishes and greetings

ever yours

R. Courant

April 14, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

Your letter to Keppel is admirable and I am returning it to you with a very few verbal corrections. I have absolutely nothing to suggest in the way of fundamental change. It seems to me to be a conclusive argument. You might perhaps add that you are beginning with mathematics as a type, just as I began with mathematics alone in the Institute for Advanced Study.

I shall be in New York but very little this week and, unfortunately, have every moment of my time engaged. Then I must go down to Washington and Baltimore. After I return to Princeton I shall be happy to see you if there is anything I can do for you.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF/MCE

R. COURANT

Phone: Hamilton 5312

142 CALTON ROAD

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

April 13, 1936

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

In the first place I want to thank you most heartily for your last letter and all your kindness. But at the same moment I come again with a new request for your advice.

Last week I saw Dr. Keppel for a few minutes. I found him very friendly and inclined to consider help for our plans at New York University. But he emphasized that just helping ^{the} construction of a Mathematics Department would not appeal strongly enough ^{to the authorities} of the Carnegie Foundations. Therefore he suggested that one should prepare the attack a little more on tactical lines. His advice was to submit him in form of a letter a short memorandum stating that and how we are attempting, so to speak, a new experiment in graduate instruction, and that we should outline the idea of this experiment and reasons why just New York University and why mathematics. Fortunately, what we have in mind, can, without any artificial effort, be presented in such a way. However, in writing such a letter I feel a little bit handicapped not only by my position as a foreigner but even more so by my lack of sufficient knowledge of the psychology of ^{the} important personalities.

Hence, before mailing my letter to Dr. Keppel I should like very much, if you could have a look at it and if I could see you some time in the near future to have your criticism and advice. Therefore I am enclosing here a draft of this letter in the hope that you will find a few minutes to look it over and to mark it with red pencil.

Veblen, whom I met Saturday told me that you may be in New York some days this week. Perhaps Mr. Bailey could let me know whether and when I could see you then. I am free Wednesday before 5:30, Thursday morning, and Thursday night after 6:15, Friday until 3:30. Of course, if you

prefer me to come to Princeton, I easily could arrange to do that.

Dr. Keppel wanted to have my letter if possible this week, because he is going away afterwards and because he wants to discuss the idea with Dr. Jessup.

I need not say that I am acting in the whole affair in agreement not only with my colleagues but also with Chancellor Chase.

Hoping very much to see you soon, I am, with my very best regards to you and Mrs. Flexner

ever yours,
R. Courant

1 encl.

March 31, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I wrote Chancellor Chase the nice things which I heard about your address before the Mathematical Club down here, and I have the enclosed in reply. I am sure it will give pleasure to you and your wife.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
143 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF:ESB

March 20, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I have come back from my little vacation and find your notes of February 26 and March 4. I am enclosing a letter of introduction to President Keppel. I hope very much that he may be able to assist you so that the promises you have may not evaporate.

My wife and I look forward with pleasure to meeting you at dinner at the von Neumanns' in the near future.

With all good wishes for you and your family.

Ever sincerely,

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
February 26, 1936

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

When I saw you in Princeton the other week you told me that you might be able to introduce me to Dr. Keppel of the Carnegie Foundation.

The main subject on which I wanted to see Mr. Keppel is a small mathematics seminar library for New York University. I shall be able to get some private help in this matter, provided that this help is supplemented from other sources. Since some of the money that was promised to me is bound to evaporate, if I wait too long I dare reminding you of our conversation.

With kindest regards,

very sincerely yours,

R. Courant

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

January 24, 1936

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey,
Institute for Advanced Study
Nassau Street 20
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

I am planning to come to Princeton one day next week, and I would like very much to see Dr. Flexner for a moment. Would you kindly let me know at what days you think he will be in Princeton and able to see me for a few minutes. For me probably Wednesday would be the best date.

With kindest regards,
very sincerely yours,

R. Courant

January 22, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I have a further letter from Doctor Park of the Johns Hopkins regarding Doctor Block in which he writes:

"When the time is opportune will Dr. Block write me? I wish to get in direct contact with him sometime and learn his interests, proficiencies, hopes, etc. Don't have him arrive in Baltimore before my return on Oct. 1."

He might write Doctor Park, addressing him at the Johns Hopkins Medical School, at his convenience. He need not come to America until the end of September or the beginning of October.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF:ESB

January 14, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I am enclosing you a really admirable letter from Dr. Park, who is Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Medical School. If Dr. Block can support himself for a while, I believe that the opportunity which Dr. Park offers is a really ideal one. Park is a fine man, as I think you will yourself see from his letter.

It might be a good idea to send this letter, or a copy of it, to Dr. Block in order that he may know in precise terms the kind of opportunities which are open to him in Baltimore.

With all good wishes,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
142 Culton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AP/MCE

January 1, 1936

Dear Professor Courant:

I am in Princeton for a day in order to attend to some urgent mail, and here I find the charming greetings from you and your wife, which we most heartily reciprocate, and your kind note of December 24, which Mrs. Bailey has handed to me with other correspondence addressed both to me and to her.

I cannot tell you how deep is my satisfaction that you and Mrs. Courant have already taken deep roots in this country and how confident I feel that your happiness and success and that of your children are actually assured. Please believe me when I say that I have done nothing except on the basis of your extraordinary merit as a man and as a mathematician, and I have exactly the same feeling about Mrs. Courant, who is a heroine if there ever was one.

As you know, it is not easy to place a physician in this country, but it certainly should not be impossible to find an opening for a man like Dr. Block, who has been a pupil of Finkelstein, himself the most highly regarded in America of all German pediatricians. I am going to send your letter and Dr. Block's curriculum vitae to Professor Park in the Johns Hopkins Medical School. It may be that he can use him there or, if not, he may know of a congenial and adequate opening.

With all good wishes to you, Mrs. Courant, and the children for the New Year, I am

Ever sincerely,

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

ABRAHAM FLENNER

AF:ESB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
December 24, 1935

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I feel a little bit ashamed that, in spite of all my good intentions to the contrary, I come today to you in behalf of friends to ask your advice in a personal case, although I know that you need, and wish that you have, a thorough rest during this vacation. But since the case is, as I think, comparatively simple and, on the other hand, seems somewhat urgent, I venture to drop you a few lines.

Dr. Walter Block, 39, of whom I am enclosing a curriculum vitae, testimonials, and a list of publications, is one of the outstanding pediatricists in Berlin. He probably would have been the successor of his boss, the famous professor Finkelstein, as the head of the big hospital in Berlin or as head of another children's hospital in Berlin, if his career in this respect would not have been interrupted by the rise of the Nazis on account of his Jewish descent. However, he was able to build up a tremendous private practice which even now continues.

Nevertheless, it needs no explanation that he is willing to give up everything at once, if he can get started in this country. - He is personally a charming, very cultured, perhaps too modest man, strong and energetic and, as I feel from personal contact, very adaptable to American ways.

What simplifies his case is, that he needs not, in the first year or perhaps even in the first two years, an income here. He would be willing to work as an intern or so at any good hospital, where his services could be used and where he would have a chance to get really into touch with American medicine, so that after a

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

December 24, 1935

To Dr. Abraham Flexner.

- 2 -

period he could settle down independently.

He is, financially backed by his cousin, Dr. Emil E. Meyer, a friend of mine and Berliner, also on very friendly terms with Dr. Jeidels. Dr. Meyer, a German, who has lived for many years in the United States as a prominent electrical engineer, has been one of the most powerful and really leading men in the German industry as a director of the Allgemeine Elektrizitätsgesellschaft, as president of the German Radio Corporation, and in other capacities, until he resigned at the 1st of April 1933 and returned to this country, where he is again becoming a very influential and resourceful man, closely connected with the heads of the American electrical industry. As a personality ^{he is} of highest standards in every respect, Dr. Meyer is extremely anxious to get his cousin out of Germany and to do here everything in helping him. Dr. Block is just staying here as Dr. Meyer's guest for a short information. He must return to Germany not later than about the middle of January to take care of his family and his patients.

Dr. Meyer and his cousin would be more than grateful, if you could give them a chance of coming to see you for a few minutes and to ask your advice whenever or wherever it might suit you. I dare to suggest such an interview, because I am convinced, that, after all, you might enjoy meeting a man like Dr. Meyer.

Since I am going away to-morrow skiing with the Alexanders, I may propose that Mrs. Bailey - if she and you think you can do it - should make some appointment with Dr. Meyer and Dr. Block. Dr. Meyer's private address is: 37 Oxford Road, New Rochelle N.Y., Phone: N.R. 654. His business address is: Dr. Emil E. Meyer, 10 East 40th Street New York City, Phone: Lexington 2-4797. - Of course, Dr. Meyer and Dr. Block would be quite willing to come and see you also in Princeton, if this would suit you better.

With kindest regards,

ever yours,

R. Lomant

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

Dec. 24. , 1935.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

My wife and I want very much to express
you, at the end of this year, how thoroughly
we know, ~~well~~ we owe to you and how deeply
we feel attached to you. With the most cordial
wishes for the new year to you, Mrs. Flexner
and all your family

ever yours devoted

R. Courant

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
December 24, 1935

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Many thanks for your message. We really hope very much that you will find it possible to come to New Rochelle some other time when we have chamber music. To-day Mrs. Courant and I like to express to you our most cordial wishes for next year.

I am sorry that I have to include in this letter again a "business" matter, namely a letter to Dr. Flexner. Please read it and forward it only, if you think it proper.

I am going away to-morrow to join the Alexanders in the mountains.

Again our best wishes and greetings,
very sincerely yours,

R. Courant

December 19, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

Mrs. Bailey showed me your letter of December 16.
Dr. Barker is perhaps the most distinguished medical man
in the United States. Mrs. Franck could not be in better
hands. I am going to write him a note today telling
him of my personal interest in Mrs. Franck.

It was a great pleasure to see you and
your wife.

Mrs. Flexner joins me in Christmas greetings
and all good wishes for the New Year to you both and to
your children.

Ever sincerely,

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, N. Y.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

December 16, 1935

Mrs. Esther S. Bailey
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Mrs. Bailey:

Dr. Flexner was so kind to show interest in Professor Franck's present trouble with the illness of his wife. When I phoned to you last Monday, everything seemed to be all right. Now I received word from Franck that a relapse has occurred. Franck has communicated with Dr. Barter who sent Dr. Gross to Mrs. Franck. Careful *medical* examination of Mrs. Franck is scheduled for the days after Christmas.

I thought that you and, if you deem it advisable, also Dr. Flexner should get this information. I am afraid that this trombosis is a more serious thing ^g than Franck might have anticipated. It might give some reassurance if Dr. Flexner could confirm that Dr. Barter is really the right man. Since nothing could be done at present, anyway, please do not trouble Dr. Flexner.

With kindest regards, also from Mrs. Courant,

yours,

R. Courant

December 12, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

Many thanks for sending me this extremely interesting letter from Jeidels, which I am returning herewith. I am happy to know that his wife is improving and that we are likely to have a visit from them in the spring.

What he says of Berliner is in a sense true. Berliner had of course reached the age at which men retire from active work. I think if he had known years ago that he would be retired at seventy, there would have been no shock, but the suddenness of his dismissal and the disintegration of his circle of friends are responsible for his depression. I am glad to have assurance from Jeidels that, as far as money is concerned, he is amply protected and that Springer's conduct was that of a gentleman.

It was a great pleasure to see you and your wife the other day, as it always is.

With all good wishes to you and your family,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF:ESB

October 23, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

I wrote to President Aydelotte and
I have received a very encouraging letter, which
I am enclosing. I hope you can arrange to motor
down to Swarthmore some day and see President
Aydelotte and give him a chance to see your son.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AP/MCE

September 23, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

Thank you for your letter of the seventeenth enclosing a copy of Berliner's letter to you. Meanwhile, I have had a long letter from him which I will show you when you come here with Lase.

I am delighted that Lase will see you and that you are going to come here with him. I will put you both up at the Nassau Club unless you have other plans. In this way you will be close to Einstein as well as to Fine Hall, and you will see all the mathematical and scientific people.

One of Ruge's sons has reached Princeton and is spending a few days with the Panofsky Family who have been most helpful to him. He will move into a dormitory early this week.

This whole affair is one of the saddest and especially for a man of Berliner's advanced age. You were fortunate that, if the blow had to come, it came at a time when you are in full vigor and you and your family can adapt yourselves without too much difficulty to new surroundings.

I have heard, since I last wrote you, indirectly that your discussion with Mr. Straus about the needs of the Graduate School of New York University has made a deep impression. With your force and tact you will, I am sure, leave your mark upon this new institution just as you did at Göttingen.

Give our warmest greetings to your wife and family, and believe me

Ever sincerely,

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, N. Y.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

C O P Y

Herkulesufer 11
Berlin W 35, 7.9.1935

Lieber Courant:

Meine Entlassung zerstörte alle
Reisepläne. Ehe ich nicht weiss, was aus mir
wird, mag ich nichts unternehmen, ich bin zu
sehr durcheinander. Von den beiden Spr. hat sich
jeder so töricht und taktlos benommen wie nur
möglich. In menschlicher Beziehung haben sie
bei mir völlig ausgespielt. Ruge wird die Formali-
en regeln. Ich warne Sie ernstlich vor irgend-
welchen Zukunftsplänen, in denen Spr. eine Rolle
spielen müsste. Mit dieser Feigheit ist man an
der Spitze eines grossen Konzerns unmöglich.
Seien Sie glücklich dort zu sein. Ich bin am
Ende meiner Nerven und jeglicher Hoffnung ange-
langt. Das Verhalten von Springer hat mir den
Rest gegeben. Was nun? Nur ein Rest

Flexner hat mich in wirklich rührend
freundschaftlicher Weise eingeladen. Eheu me
piserum.

Herzlichst Ihr

signed Berliner

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
September 17, 1935

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I just received a note from Berliner of
which I am enclosing a copy.

The same mail brought a letter from Bohr
in Copenhagen referring to the Berliner incident
with the following sentence "Zum Beispiel glaube
ich, dass der Grund, weshalb Springer sich nicht
sofort persönlich mit Berliner in Verbindung setzte,
nachdem er den mir nicht näher bekannten Druck
nachgegeben hatte, wohl einfach der war, dass er
einerseits selbstusserst deprimiert war über diesen
Schritt und deshalb nicht die Kraft hatte, mit
Berliner darüber zu sprechen, und andererseits wohl
auch gar nicht wusste, was er eigentlich sagen
sollte und durfte."

Neugebauer who is traveling from Copenhagen
to Rome to attend some congress will stop at
Berlin and see Berliner and Springer. I am expecting
his report within a week or so, and shall forward
it to you at once.

How long will this Nazi pestilence
last?

With many kind regards, also to
your family and Mrs. Bailey

ever yours,

R. Courant

P.S. In the meantime your letter of September
16th arrived. Many thanks. Laure wrote me
that he will arrive September 30th and
stay one or two days with me. Then I shall
take him by car to Princeton where I hope
very much to have a chance of seeing you.
In case you should happen to be in
New York before that date and to have real-
ly spare time, I should like very much to
tell you about a conversation I recently
had with Mr. Percy Straus.

September 16, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

Thank you for your kind note of September 12.

Meanwhile I have received a card from Berliner telling me that his position at Springer's Verlag, and that of all other non-Arians, had become impossible.

I think you are quite right that I must be careful to do nothing that will embarrass Laue or others. I shall, therefore, not write to Science until I see Laue - and I hope Berliner, for I have written him urging him to come to America for a vacation this autumn.

With all good wishes to you and your family,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF/MCH

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

September 12, 1935

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Edward I am sorry that I did not get any additional information regarding Dr. Berliner, except the fact that not only Berliner but all "non-aryan" employees of the firm Springer were ~~also~~^{sum} dismissed over night under extreme pressure from Nazi officials. Dr. Ferdinand Springer was on his vacation in Switzerland when these Nazi measures were planned. Apparently some Nazi official pursued Springer into his summer resort and forced him to yield by the threat that otherwise the whole publishing firm would be ruined. - In the last issue of the "Naturwissenschaften", dated August 30th, you will find, on the first page, a statement by the firm which indicates clearly that Berliner's removal has been enforced.

Berliner, according to my information, is deeply excited and depressed. Laue wrote me that he is trying to persuade Berliner to come with him to the United States on the same boat, arriving here on September 30th. Berliner, apparently, is very much inclined to come for a short visit, if he can arrange it financially. - Harald and Niels Bohr informed me that they also are planning to invite Berliner for a short stay in Copenhagen.

I think that your intention to publish a note in "Science" is entirely fitting. The only objection is that one should avoid causing difficulties for Laue and Berliner in Germany. Thus, I think it would be best if your note could be mailed to "Science" before their arrival. If I could be of any help to you in the matter I should be glad to do so; particularly since I am much concerned lest you expend too much of your precious increment of energy, laid down in the summer, on trying affairs of which, I am afraid, more will come to you.

With many kind regards to you and your family, also
from Mrs. Courant and James Franck, who is here as my guest,

I am,

ever yours

R. Courant

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
August 29, 1935

Dr. Abraham Flexner
Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I just received word from Neugebauer in Kopenhagen that Dr. Berliner has been forced out from his editorship of the "Naturwissenschaften" from one day to the other. No details have been available so far, except that the matter occurred while Dr. Ferdinand Springer was on a leave of absence in Switzerland. I am expecting more details which I shall communicate to you in case they appear interesting.

With kindest wishes and regards to you and your family from all of us,

ever yours,

R. Courant.

June 25, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

Returning home, I find your kind note. I am delighted beyond words that you have been assured by Chancellor Chase that your appointment will be made permanent on the cessation of your temporary appointment. I am sure you were right to stay in America rather than to go to Calcutta.

I came at once to Princeton on returning from my vacation and shall be here until Thursday evening, but I shall be very happy to see you in New York Friday at our apartment (150 East 72nd Street) if you will let me know the hour which is convenient to you. (Telephone: Rhineland 4 - 2378)

Mrs. Flexner joins me in heartiest greetings to you and Mrs. Courant and the children.

Yours sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER.

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF:EMB

Phone: Hamilton 5312

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I hope that you and Mrs. Flexner have had a really thorough recreation on your trip and that you have not to exhaust yourself before you can go from New York to your peaceful place in Canada. However, in case you are not too much under pressure, I should be delighted if you could give me a chance of seeing you during this interval.

I wish to express again my deep gratitude to you not only for everything which you have actually done for me but as well for your friendly general attitude, which is certainly the most valuable thing which I have found in America. Looking back at the last year I realize that it is mainly your existence and your guidance to which we owe our in every respect so satisfactory start in this country.

While you were on your trip I received a kind letter from Chancellor Chase assuring me of the future after the expiration of my present temporary appointment. By a curious coincidence, the same mail brought me the offer of the highest mathematical chair at the University of Calcutta under rather good conditions. I did not hesitate to decline this offer and merely to inform Chancellor Chase of the fact, which as I hope meets your approval. Afterwards I had a pleasant interview with Chancellor Chase, and later, at the dinner of the N Y U, also a short conversation with Mr. Percy Straus, who encouraged me very friendly to call on him sometime again. Thus I feel that, through your intervention, the initial contact is established. I might report a few more details if I have a chance to see you.

With kindest regards also to Mrs. Flexner and from my wife

ever yours

R. Courant

R. COURANT

2 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

May 4, ¹⁹³⁵ 1934;

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your kind letter which I receive today. I phoned with Dr. Schaeffer and he will be only too glad to be in his Hotel next Thursday from 6,15 p.m. on. If this is convenient to you no further confirmation of this appointment is needed.

With most cordial greetings

ever yours

R. Courant

April 25, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

I had luncheon with Chancellor Chase Tuesday for the purpose of talking about several matters of mutual interest. In the course of the conversation I told him of the esteem in which you are held, and I am hopeful that in the very near future he will see you and reassure you as to the future.

This note I am sending to you in confidence. I should not wish any one but you and your wife to know of it.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF/MCE

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SATURDAY MORNING POSSIBLE YOU SHOULD BY NO MEANS MAKE ANY
EFFORT THERE ID RATHER COME TO PRINCETON=
COURANT.

April 3, 1935

Dear Professor Courant:

I have just returned to Princeton and find your note of March 31. I am very sorry not to have been able to see you the last week-end. I have to be in New York Friday evening, but I must return here for a committee meeting Saturday morning. Let me know at what hour you could see me Friday in New York before your appointments begin, and I will try to be there in time to see you. I suggest that you telegraph me so that I can arrange it, if possible. I am sorry to be so busy, but it is unavoidable.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AF:EBB

R. COURANT

142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
March 31. 1935.

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Institute for Advanced Study
Nassau St.
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

As you will have heard from Mrs. Bailey I have tried to get into touch with you because, on Dr. Jeidels request, I wanted to submit you some correspondence which I had with him concerning Prof. v. Laue.

Mrs. Bailey told me that you are not expected back in Princeton before Wednesday. But I should be very glad if you could give me a chance to see you after that date. I could come to Princeton at any time between Saturday night and Tuesday. In case you should be in New York before that, I could easily see you there at almost any time convenient to you, except Friday afternoon and Saturday in the first half of the afternoon.

I need not say how anxious I am anyway to see you soon, although I know that one has to be very reluctant in taking of ^{one's} precious time.

With kindest regards also to Mrs. Flexner,

yours very sincerely,

R. Courant

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

March 29, 1935

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

Regret Doctor Flexner away until next Wednesday

Esther S. Bailey

Charge Institute for Advanced Study

December 27, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

I had to go to Washington last week, and came to New York just before Christmas. Now I find that instead of seeing my friends here I am compelled to make a journey which will probably occupy the next two weeks. I shall see you as soon as I get back to this section of the country. Meanwhile, I talked today to one of the most influential trustees of New York University, Mr. Percy S. Straus, and told him of your career in Göttingen and your capacity. Mr. Straus, whose address is R. H. Macy & Company, 34th Street and Broadway, is very anxious to have you lunch with him some day. I am enclosing a card, and I suggest that you send it to him in a note and ask him to indicate a day on which it will be convenient for him to have you at luncheon.

Mrs. Flexner and I join in warmest New Year greetings to you, Mrs. Courant, and your children.

Sincerely your friend,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AT/MCE

R. COURANT

142 CALTON AD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Flexner:

This is only to inform you that Mrs. Courant and I ~~are~~ intend spending this weekend in Princeton, where we probably will stay with Neumanns. It would be a great pleasure to me if this time there would be an opportunity of seeing you. But I realize how many visitors are consuming your time and how necessary it might be for you to have at weekends a complete rest without visitors. However, I will try - after my arrival Saturday before noon - to inquire in your office, whether there is a chance.

With kindest regards and wishes from house to house

yours very sincerely

R. Courant

N.Y. Jan.
142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
December 26, 1934.

R. COURANT

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
150 East 72nd Street,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Flexner:

In connection with our last short conversation in Princeton I am extremely anxious to have an opportunity of seeing you during your present stay in New York.

Today I am leaving for Pittsburgh from where I expect to return next Sunday morning. My classes at N.Y.U. begin on January 2nd, but I can, except on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, always adjust my schedule in order to see you whenever you find it convenient.

I hope that you can use these vacation for a real rest. Therefore I do not dare to urge you and Mrs. Flexner to come out to our place sometimes within the next few weeks. We realize perfectly that such a trip out of town at this time might be inconvenient. But, anyhow, I need not to emphasize how glad Mrs. Courant and I would be if, in spite of all this, we could sometimes have a chance of seeing you here in New Rochelle.

With the most cordial wishes for another happy and successful new year in complete health and vigor from Mrs. Courant and myself for all of you, I remain

yours very sincerely,

R. Courant

November 15, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

Since receiving your kind note of the 13th I have had a call to Washington, where I shall have to be Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week. That will necessarily postpone my going to New York, but I will let you know in good time when I am to be in New York, in order that we may see one another.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

AP/MCE

R. COURANT

Phone: (Hamilton 5312)

142 CANTON ROAD

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.

November 13, 1934

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Institute for Advanced Study,
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter.
I hope very much that your time will permit
you to see me in New York next week. But
should you be too much in a rush, I could
wait, of course, for another opportunity
which would be more convenient to you.

At any rate, I am quite
prepared to come downtown next Tuesday
any time you like.

I can be reached by tele-
phone (Hamilton 5312) in our house on
Monday night and Tuesday morning; practi-
cally, there is always somebody in who
could accept a message.

With kindest regards to all of you

Yours very sincerely

R. Courant

November 12, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

I have your kind letter of November 10th, and I do hope that when Mrs. Flexner and I are in New York - as we shall be for several weeks, probably, around Christmas - we can come to New Rochelle to see you. At the moment I have so much to do here and in Washington, where I have had to make several trips, that I cannot go elsewhere, though nothing would give me greater pleasure than to visit you and your family in your home.

I shall probably be in New York on Tuesday of next week. I can let you know positively a little later. If so, I could see you some time, at your convenience, that day. Let me know where I can reach you by telephone, and I will call you and will either see you there or arrange to see you here.

With all good wishes and very high regard to you and your wife from Mrs. Flexner and myself, as well as Mrs. Bailey.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

4F/MCE

R. COURANT

Phone: Hamilton 5312
142 CALTON ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y.
November 10, 1934.

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Institute for advanced study,
20, Nassau Street
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

After having been settled a little more I should like very much to have another opportunity of seeing you. There are no especially urgent questions, but you know how grateful I am, if I could continue to have your general advice.

I could come to Princeton - what I should like to do anyhow rather soon - or I could see you, when you are in New York, whatever is more convenient to you. Except on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and evenings I could nearly always dispose of my time, if I know it a little in advance.

I know very well how limited yours and Mrs. Flexner's time is, especially when you are in New York. But please do not think it too exacting, if I venture to ask you, moreover, whether you could arrange some time, both together or independent, to come out here to see us and our place. We are so much indebted to you that we really feel the need of showing you how we are settled.

Kindest regards from me and Mrs. Courant to you and your family, including Miss Bailey

Yours very truly

R. Courant

September 19, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

I have now returned to Princeton and I will be glad to hand you the envelope some time when you are in Princeton or when I am in New York.

I hope that you had a pleasant voyage and that you and your family are now quite comfortably settled in America.

With kindest regards and best wishes,
in which Dr. Flexner joins,

Sincerely yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Professor R. Courant
142 Calton Road
New Rochelle, New York

ESB/MCE

Courant

142 Calton Road New Rochelle N. Y.

Phone: Hamilton 5312 .

Sept. 16., 1934.

My dear Dr. Flexner:

This is only to tell you that we are at the point of settling down at the place mentioned above and that everything seems to develop quite satisfactorily. We all feel the tension of the last years more and more disappearing in a remote distance, and I am really looking forward to my task at the New York University. As the vacations are tending towards the end and people coming back, I am gradually establishing contact with the people in the department.

Of course, I am very anxious to see you as soon as it will suit you and at any place, which might be convenient to you. In the meantime, I wish to express again my deep feeling of gratitude and attachement to you.

Hoping you will not mind my clumsy English, I am with kindest regards to all of you

Yours very sincerely

R. Courant

Am Göttingen
Wien in Wien Ph. 21
Ziler
acknowledged
by A.P.
June 28, 1934

Cambridge , 3. Juni 1934.

Lieber verehrter Herr Dr. Flexner!

Vielen sehr herzlichen Dank für Ihren freundlichen Brief und die Empfehlungsschreiben, die mir sicherlich sehr nützlich sein werden. Ich kenne übrigens Jeidels seit langem recht gut und hatt schon sowieso vor, ihn jetzt in Berlin aufzusuchen.

In der kommenden Woche will ich nach Deutschland fahren, um meine Angelegenheiten zu erledigen und die Übersiedelung der Familie vorzubereiten. Die Situation wird ja immer schwieriger, insbesondere hinsichtlich der finanziellen Fragen, und ich neige mehr und mehr dazu, die "breise so bald als möglich vorzunehmen. Die einzige Schwierigkeit dabei ist, wie man die Kinder während des heissen Sommers im August in New York unterbringen soll. Vielw leibht werden wir allerdings zuerst in der Nähe auf dem Lande bei Bekannten sein können.

Ich hoffe sehr, dass Sie inzwischen eine ganz gründliche Erholung in Canada finden und dass ich Sie dann als völlig frischen und jugendlichen Mann wiedersehen werde.

Mit den herzlichsten Grüßen an Sie alle

Ihr

R. Courant.

not acknowledged
-moe

R. Courant

May 17, 1934

Dear Mr. Warburg:

May I venture to introduce to you my friend Professor Richard Courant, formerly Professor of Mathematics at Göttingen, who is spending this year as Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, England. Professor Courant has accepted a call to a chair in mathematics at the New York University and will come to America in the autumn. There are, however, innumerable problems confronting him, and it has occurred to me that you may be able to advise him in respect to them.

With all good wishes to you and your wife and family,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Mr. Max M. Warburg
Neue Rabenstr. 24
Hamburg, Germany

AF/MCE

Same letter to
Dr. Otto Jeidels
Ambassador Dodd

May 17, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

I have just received your kind note of May 4th, and I write promptly, because it occurs to me that perhaps the enclosed letters of introduction may put you in touch with persons who may be able to help you in your efforts to save something from the wreck in Germany. Mr. Warburg is a banker in Hamburg, as you know. Mr. Jeidels is a very influential banker in Berlin. Both are friends of mine of long standing and will, I am sure, do everything in their power to help you. The American Ambassador was formerly a Professor of History at the University of Chicago and may also have some useful suggestions to make.

I feel certain that you will recover your peace of mind in this country and that a happy life is opening for you and your family, though I do not underestimate the seriousness of the break which you and your colleagues are making with your native land.

I look forward to seeing you and your family as soon as possible after your arrival.

The winter has not been a very good one for me, though I have at no time been ill or unable to work. I hope, however, that a good rest this summer will restore me to my usual vigor.

What you write of the conditions in Germany coincides with what I

Professor Courant

May 17, 1934

- 2 -

hear from other sources. Very complete accounts are published almost daily in the New York Times, all of which indicate that Germany is now being governed by a ruthless minority, which has simply terrorized the rest of the population so that anything like combined action is, for the moment, impossible. On the other hand, the economic conditions are such that it is impossible to foresee the future.

My wife and Mrs. Bailey join me in heartiest greetings to you and your family.

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM WEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
15 Brookside
Cambridge, England

3 Encls.
AF/MCE

R. Courant

Cambridge, 4. 5. 34.

15 Brookside.

Lieber verehrter Dr. Flexner!

Noch immer habe ich Ihnen nicht für Ihren so freundlichen Brief vom 5. März gedankt. Ihre freundschaftliche Gesinnung und Hilfe ist ja wirklich in dieser schwierigen Zeit so entscheidend für mich gewesen, dass ich gar nicht weiss, wie ich Ihnen mein tiefes Dankgefühl zum Ausdruck bringen soll. Nun, jedenfalls will ich versuchen, an der New York University und überhaupt drüben so nützlich zu wirken, wie es in meinen Kräften steht. Sie können versichert sein, dass ich mich mit Freude und Energie in das neue Arbeitsgebiet hineinbegeben werde, welches Sie mir eröffnet haben.

Gegenwärtig habe ich einen schwierigen Kampf mit den Deutschen Behörden durchzufechten, um wenigstens einen kleinen Teil meiner Ersparnisse mit nach drüben nehmen zu dürfen und um für meine Angehörigen vorläufig die rechtlichen Ansprüche an den Preussischen Staat aufrecht zu erhalten. Zusammen mit allen den Ereignissen und der Unruhe des vergangenen Jahres macht dies ein wenig müde. Ich hoffe aber vor meinem Anfang drüben noch genug Zeit zum Ausruhen finden zu können.

Ich will ganz zum Anfang des September drüben sein. Das schwierige Problem, wie der Transfer der Familie bewerkstelligt werden soll, ist noch ganz in der ~~Schwere~~ Schwebe. Meine Frau jedenfalls soll möglichst gleich mitkommen. Es würde eine grosse Freude für mich sein, wenn ich Sie dann ziemlich bald in Ihrer vollen Gesundheit wiedersehen könnte.

Über Ostern bin ich einige Zeit in Deutschland gewesen. Der äussere Eindruck war der von Ordnung, Ruhe, Stabilität. Aber es

scheint doch, als ob die Intensität der unterirdischen Kritik und Unzufriedenheit in allen Schichten der Bevölkerung recht ernst zu nehmen ist. Wirksam werden können diese Gegenkräfte sicherlich noch lange nicht; sie sind atomisiert, und der Druck von oben ist zu riesig und zu systematisch. Ausserdem ist nichts da, was die Nazis ablösen könnte. Dagegen halte ich eine langsame Entwicklung nicht für so ausgeschlossen, wie es von aussen scheinen mag, wenn nicht die rein wirtschaftlichen Kräfte alles über den Haufen werfen. In dieser Hinsicht sind viele massgebende Männer der Wirtschaft recht besorgt.

Der Druck auf die "Nicht-Arier", speziell in den Universitäten, aber auch sonst, ist zweifellos noch im Steigen. Es ist eine Art Barometer für das Gefühl von uneasiness bei den regierenden Kreisen.

Viele sehr herzliche Grüsse und Wünsche, auch an

Ihre Familie und an Mrs. Bailey

Ihr

R. Courant

March 5, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

I have your kind note of February 22nd, and I have also had a letter from Chancellor Chase which shows how glad he and his associates are that they have procured you for their mathematical faculty.

I am delighted to be able to say that conditions in America seem to be improving, so that what is undertaken here on a temporary basis has an increasingly good chance of becoming permanent. Certainly, though nobody wishes Germany any harm, nothing could be better for America than that we should take unto ourselves that which Germany is so madly and foolishly throwing away.

Many thanks for your inquiries about my health. It is very greatly improved despite the severity of the winter - the most severe we have had in many, many years. With the coming of spring, of which there are now signs, I am certain that I shall return to my usual vigor.

My wife and Mrs. Bailey joins me in hearty greetings and good wishes to you.

Sincerely your friend,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
9 Queen Ediths Way
Cambridge, England

AF/ECE

Cambridge, 22. 2. 34.

Lieber, verehrter Dr. Flexner!

Gleichzeitig schreibe ich an Veblen, um ihm mitzuteilen, dass ich seinem und Ihrem Rate entsprechend die Einladung nach Berkeley für August-Dezember abgesagt habe, um ohne Komplikationen und mit voller Kraft in New York anfangen zu können. Ich bin froh, dass die Situation jetzt so völlig klar ist und dass in New York, wie es scheint, eine wirklich lohnende Aufgabe winkt. Lassen Sie mich Ihnen noch einmal meinen allerherzlichsten Dank sagen für alles, was Sie für mich getan haben. Ich hoffe aufrichtig, dass ich drüben irgendwie werde nützlich wirken und damit Ihr Vertrauen und Ihre Mühen rechtfertigen können. Mit den Schwierigkeiten am Anfang werde ich schon irgendwie fertig werden, ohne mich in der eigentlichen Arbeit allzu sehr hemmen zu lassen. Jedenfalls können Sie versichert sein, dass ich mich voll einsetzen werde.

In Europa sieht es mehr und mehr so aus, als ob das dritte Reich jetzt nachträglich den Krieg, den Deutschland 1918 verloren hat, ohne Kampf gründlich gewinnen sollte. England ist sichtlich zu grossen Konzessionen bereit, und Deutschland ist schon jetzt so stark, dass Frankreich ohne Englands Unterstützung machtlos dagegen ist. Die Aussicht auf friedlich-stabile europäische Zustände ~~ist~~ ist vorerst nicht sehr gross. Hoffentlich wird Amerika schnell und gründlich wieder in Ordnung kommen und dann den geistigen Gütern der Menschheit die Zufluchtstätte bieten können, die in Europa verloren geht.

Es ist jedenfalls (wundernswert, wieviel in der Hinsicht schon
jetzt von Amerika aus geschieht.

Ich wäre sehr froh, wenn ich gelegentlich einmal eine günstige
Nachricht über Ihre Gesundheit erhalten könnte. Veblen hat darüber nicht
erwähnt, was ich als ein gutes Zeichen deute.

Mit vielen herzlichen Grüßen auch an Ihre Familie und an

Miss Bailey

Ihr dankbar ergebener

R. Courant

February 19, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

I have your kind letter of the 9th of February with the enclosed copy of your letter to Chancellor Chase, which seems to me excellent in every respect. I have also communicated with Dr. Deutsch. The plans for the coming summer are already made, but your name will be kept in mind for next summer, so that if, as I hope, you receive a summer appointment there or elsewhere, your remuneration will be considerably increased. I realize that you will be beginning under difficulties, but the pressure upon the American funds has been so great that it has been absolutely necessary, in order to help the largest number possible, to begin on a minimum basis. Your abilities are such that I have no fear as to a rapid improvement in your status once you have identified yourself with American scientists. I believe that you will have no cause to regret that you have accepted the New York appointment. It would, of course, have been admirable if the two appointments could both have been accepted, but that is impossible. Needless to say, Veblen and I will continue to be on the lookout for any other opportunity that may develop in this country.

My wife joins me in warmest greetings to you, and with best wishes for your prompt success in the United States,

Always sincerely,

Professor R. Courant
9 Queen Ediths Way
Cambridge, England

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Prof. Dr. R. Courant 9 Queen Ediths Way Cambridge, England.

8. Febr., 1934.

Dear Chancellor Chase!

Your kind letter of Jan. 23^d duly reached me just after my having a conversation about the matter with Prof. Duggan. I thank you very much for your invitation and I shall be very glad to come to your University. It would give me great satisfaction if I could really be of help for you there. At any rate, I shall try my best.

You will understand that my technical position in respect to Göttingen is that of a professor and director of the mathematical institute who has been "beurlaubt", but not dismissed, and that I have therefore to apply for further "leave of absence" in order not to forfeit any legal claims. This is no doubt a pure formality, and I have already taken the necessary steps. ^{Under} ~~the~~ the circumstances it would perhaps be better if no public announcement were made of my coming to New York University until this leave has been granted.

As I understood Prof. Duggan, I am expected to assist in developing the graduate work at your University. Of course, my activities in this connection have to be fitted into plans already existing. I should be very pleased if your office would provide me with general material of information and tell me how I could enquire about details with respect to the mathematical department as also the needs of theoretical physics.

My general proposal would be to give, during this two year

period, a connected sequence of graduate courses under a common title: "advanced analysis". These courses could start from a comparatively elementary level and - as I hope - eventually lead students to the point of commencing research themselves. Moreover, I should like to conduct a seminar (conversation class), based upon the courses.

I hope to get information in time to be able to fix a definite plan and to submit it to you in a suitable form before March 15th. Furthermore it would be of assistance to me, in fixing my personal plans, to know, at what date I am really expected to begin my work in New York.

Looking forward to my work there I am

yours sincerely

Prof. Dr. R. Courant

R. Courant

9 Queen Ediths Way Cambridge, 9. Februar 1944.

Lieber, verehrter Herr Dr. Flexner!

Gleichzeitig mit Ihrem freundlichen Briefe vom 23. Januar erhielt ich das offizielle Einladungsschreiben der New York University. Ich glaube, Ihre Meinung und Ihren Rat richtig verstanden zu haben, indem ich Herrn Chancellor Chase sofort zusagend geantwortet habe. Die Abschrift meines Briefes an Herrn Chase lege ich Ihnen bei.

Dass die finanzielle Seite der Sache mich etwas enttäuscht hat und mir - angesichts meiner Familie mit vier Kindern und meiner Mutter - ziemliche Sorgen macht, verstehen Sie. Aber ich hoffe, nach dem, was Sie mir schreiben, dass die Situation sich bessern wird. Es ist ein starkes Gefühl der Beruhigung, zu wissen, welches freundschaftliche Interesse Sie und Veblen für mich betätigen.

In der Angelegenheit meiner Einladung nach Berkeley möchte ich Sie heute nochmals um Ihren Rat bitten. Herrn Chase gegenüber habe ich davon nichts erwähnt, nach langen Beratungen mit Hardy. So wie die Dinge gegenwärtig zu liegen scheinen, muss ich wohl alles darauf einstellen, die Chance in New York durch nichts zu beeinträchtigen. Andererseits ist das Angebot von Berkeley an sich sehr verlockend und - da es sich um 3000 Dollar handelt - unter den Umständen auch finanziell relevant. Veblen hatte mir vor einigen Wochen geschrieben, dass es vielleicht doch erstrebenswert wäre, den Besuch in Berkeley vor New York einzurichten. Ich wäre damit sehr einverstanden, wenn vom Standpunkt eines möglichst guten Starts in New York nichts dagegen spricht. Am 30. Januar habe ich Veblen geschrieben und ihn gebeten,

August bis Anfang December

mit Ihnen die Situation zu prüfen. Gegebenfalls könnte ich übrigens schon im Juni zur summer session nach Berkeley fahren, da Ende Mai hier meine Vorlesungen beendet sind.

Falls Sie, ~~wie Veblen~~ glauben, dass eine Kombination von Berkeley mit New York vernünftig ist, so wäre ich Ihnen sehr dankbar,

wenn Sie - wie Veblen anregte - die Angelegenheit mit der New York University ^{bald} arrangieren könnten. Wir fanden es zu kompliziert und

zu riskant, von hier aus darüber mit Chancellor Chase zu verhandeln.

Da ich an Herrn Deutsch in Berkeley bald antworten muss, wäre ich

sehr froh, wenn Franck, der ja jetzt in Princeton ist, mit Ihren

definitiven Rat in der Sache bald durch einen nightletter übermitteln

könnte.

Ich hoffe, Sie werden nicht ungeduldig werden über die viele

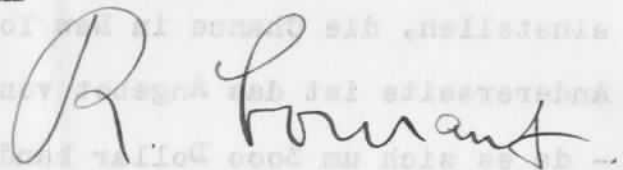
Mühe, die ich Ihnen mit meinen persönlichen Angelegenheiten verursach

und vielleicht noch verursachen werde. Heute nur noch den herzlichsten

Dank für alles, was Sie schon getan haben!

Mit den besten Grüßen und Wünschen

Ihr



January 25, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

You will receive by this mail a letter from Chancellor Chase of New York University offering you a two-year post. The conditions in New York University are such that there is a good prospect, in my judgment, that this will be converted into a permanent post at a higher salary. The salary offered is low, because it has been provided by one of the relief agencies in this country, but it can be supplemented by teaching a summer term. It is far from what you deserve but will enable you to make the transfer to America and to be on the ground if further opportunities develop either in New York University or elsewhere. Veblen's interest in you and mine continue, and we shall do all in our power to improve your situation.

With all good wishes and very high regard,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Richard Courant
c/o Professor Born
246 Hills Road
Cambridge, England

AF:ESB

R. Courant

9. Queen Ediths Way Cambridge England. 16. Januar 1934.

Lieber, verehrter Herr Dr. Flexner!

Vielen sehr herzlichen Dank für Ihren so freundlichen Brief vom 16. Dezember, den ich hier vorfand. Ich hoffe von Herzen, dass Ihre so kostbare Gesundheit sich inzwischen gebessert hat, und ich bin tief beschämt, dass Sie selbst während der Zeit Ihres Unwohlseins sich noch um meine Angelegenheiten bemühen und dass ich Ihnen immer weiter mit meinen Sorgen Mühe verursache.

Ihre Beurteilung der Lage in Deutschland ist, leider, wie ich fürchte, nur allzu richtig. Ich neige von Natur aus zu Optimismus und hoffte, als ich über die Weihnachtsferien nach Göttingen fuhr, die Situation gebessert vorzufinden. Genau das Gegenteil war richtig. Es war sehr deprimierend, zu sehen, wie der Wahnsinn mehr und mehr Boden gewonnen hat, alles mehr Selbstverständlichkeit geworden ist und, wenigstens an der Universität Göttingen, die Leute entweder offen mitmachen oder resignieren. Ich halte es zwar für möglich, dass nach Göttingen der eine oder andere gute Mann hinberufen werden wird; aber es wäre eine Illusion, zu glauben, dass dort das alte Zentrum mit neuen Leuten wieder aufgebaut werden könnte. Im ganzen herrscht in Göttingen bewusst der Wunsch, eine "politische" Universität zu errichten und politisch und antisemitisch besonders radikal zu sein. In anderen Orten, z.B. in Berlin, wo einige starke und mutige Persönlichkeiten sich wirklich exponieren, liegen die Verhältnisse nicht so schlimm. Aber natürlich macht sich auch dort die allgemeine

2 antiintellektualistische " Tendenz gelten ein langdauernder Niedergang der Deutschen Wissenschaft in vielen Gebieten scheint unvermeidlich.

Wie froh ich unter diesen Umständen sein werde, wenn die von Ihnen angedeuteten Möglichkeiten in Amerika sich für mich verwirklichen, brauche ich Ihnen nicht zu sagen. Einstweilen muss ich noch abwarten. Ich habe Sie in den Weihnachtsferien mit einer Anfrage aus Göttingen wegen Berkeley behelligt. Wahrscheinlich ist mein Brief wegen der schlechten Schiffsverbindungen mit grosser Verspätung angekommen. Inzwischen habe ich ja an Franck telegraphiert, und der hat mir auf grund einer Rückfrage bei Ihnen ~~mir~~ geraten, die kurze Einladung nach Berkeley vorläufig noch nicht anzunehmen. Mit Hilfe von Hardy habe ich heute nach Berkeley telegraphiert, dass ich noch um einige Wochen Aufschub für meine endgültige Antwort bitte; ausserdem sende ich gleichzeitig den in Abschrift beiliegenden Brief an den Vicepräsidenten von Berkeley ab. Ich hoffe, dass dies in Ihrem Sinne ist. Wenn die Einladung nach New York kommt und mit einem vorherigen Aufenthalt in Berkeley nicht verträglich ist, muss ich natürlich Berkeley aufgeben, trotzdem ich ~~mich~~ an sich gerne hinginge. Jedenfalls werde ich mich natürlich ganz nach Ihrem Rate richten.

Viele sehr herzliche Grüsse und Wünsche auch an Ihre Familie

Ihr aufrichtig ergebener und dankbarer.

R. Courant

9 Queen Ediths Way Cambridge Jan. 16. 1934.

Prof. Dr. M. E. Deutsch
Vicepresident of the
University of California

Dear Dr. Deutsch!

Your kind letter of December 7 th. unfortunately reached me only

after considerable delay, because I had left for Germany and my mail was not duly forwarded in spite of arrangements made for it. Hence I

was only able to acknowledge your letter today by telegram. As it is

unnecessary for me to emphasize, I was extremely glad to receive your

formal invitation. You know how intensely I feel attracted by the

prospect of renewing my relations with the University of California.

There is hardly a place I should like to be at more than Berkeley. So it might appear quite unnatural that I did not at once wire my accep-

tance as a matter of course. I have to explain to you frankly the reason for my hesitation, which is quite contrary to my natural impul-

The point is, that during these Christmas vacations I have been confidentially - not officially - informed by friends that there is a possibility of my getting a call within a few weeks to a long term appointment, which would enable me to take my family with me. At the same time I was requested not to accept other invitations until their compatibility with this probable (not certain) offer had been ascertained. I am now trying to find out what the situation exactly is, and I strongly hope, that there will be no interference. On the other hand as I trust, you will understand, that I feel compelled to avoid steps which might jeopardise the prospect of a more permanent solution

for me and my family. My visit to Germany made me realize that resuming my activities in Göttingen will unfortunately be impossible for at least a considerable time and also that general conditions in Germany make an early removal of my family highly desirable. Under these circumstances I hope it will not appear too ungrateful of me that I did ask your permission to delay my definite reply until my general situation shall become somewhat clearer. I am doing everything in my power to bring about this clearness and I shall inform you as soon as possible.

Please let me assure you again that my attitude towards your university remains unchanged. Hoping that interference of the kind I have mentioned can be avoided, I look forward now as before to the opportunity of coming there.

With my best personal wishes for your health in the new year

Yours very sincerely
R. Courant

*Deutsch
Courant*

January 16, 1934

Dear Professor Deutsch:

I am writing you at the suggestion of Professor Franck in order that you may understand what has happened in the matter of Professor Courant. He is about to receive an invitation to New York University for a two-year period with the likelihood that the appointment will become a permanent one. Under these circumstances, though he greatly desired to go to Berkeley, it would seem from the standpoint of his future inexpedient to do so unless there is a prospect of a permanent position. Should such be the case, he is still in position to consider the two alternatives.

With all good wishes and high regard,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor M. E. Deutsch
University of California
Berkeley, California

AF:MSB

January 16, 1934

Dear Professor Franck;

I have your kind note of the 14th, and I shall immediately write to ~~President~~ Professor Deutsch to explain precisely why Professor Courant has felt that he could not accept the invitation to Berkeley. I shall also write to Courant the substance of my last conversation with Chancellor Chase. I think there is no doubt that Courant will be asked to come to New York University for a period of two years and that, if everything is satisfactory, the appointment will be continued permanently.

I am touched by your concern for my neuritis. I think, on the whole, it has improved somewhat, but progress, as you know from your own experience, is necessarily slow.

With warm regards for you and your wife and all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor James Franck
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

AF:RSB

January 16, 1934

Dear Professor Courant:

I am sorry that I have been somewhat unwell during the last few weeks so that it has been impossible for me to answer more promptly your very kind letter. I have, however, had conversations with Dr. Weaver of the Rockefeller Foundation and Chancellor Chase of New York University. Chancellor Chase assures me that it is "settled" that you will receive an invitation to come to New York University for two years. Their hope is that this will be converted into a permanent appointment on perhaps a larger salary than they are able to offer at the present time. I have been in touch with Professor Frank and have also written Professor Deutsch of the University of California. I hope very much that your suspense may be relieved within the next few weeks and that the invitation to New York University will be received by you within the very near future.

My wife and children join me in warmest greetings and all good wishes.

Always sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
c/o Professor Born
246 Hills Road
Cambridge, England

AF:ESB

Baltimore 14. Jan. 1934.

Courant

Dear Dr. Flexner!

I hope that I disturbed you not too much in calling you up by telephone. As you advised me I cabled to friend Courant: "Have spoken with Flexner. New York call will come in few weeks. Don't accept Berkeley temporarily." So I hope that all will be settled safely. I am anxious to ask you, if you would be kind enough to write a letter to Pres. Denton of the Univ. in Berkeley to explain Courant's attitude. He wrote several months ago that he would be glad to accept an invitation for fall 1935 and now he refuses. Without an explanation this could make a wrong impression. Moreover there could be a little chance, that this invitation would also be the beginning of a permanent offer. That is the reason, why I am so immodest to beg you to write to Pres. Denton.

I hope that your neuritis will become better very soon. With many thanks and kind regards

sincerely yours

J. Franke.

PROFESSOR DR. RICHARD COURANT

GÖTTINGEN, DEN
WILH. WEBER-STR. 21

28. 12. 33.

R. Courant

12/24/33

Herrn Dr. Abraham Flexner,
Princeton N.J.

Lieber verehrter Herr Dr. Flexner!

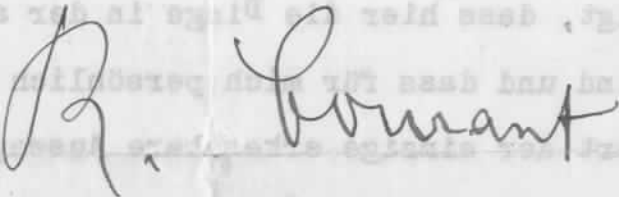
Es ist beschämend für mich, dass ich Ihnen noch nicht für Ihren freundlichen Brief vom 14. November nach Cambridge gedankt habe und heute schon wieder Ihre Freundlichkeit mit einer Bitte um Rat in Anspruch nehmen muss. - Ich bin für die Weihnachtsferien zum Besuch meiner Familie und zur allgemeinen Orientierung über die Entwicklung an der hiesigen Universität nach Göttingen gefahren. Dabei hat es sich leider bestätigt, dass hier die Dinge in der alten Richtung stark fortgeschritten sind und dass für mich persönlich eine Lösung der von Ihnen angestrebten Art der einzige erkennbare Ausweg ist. Natürlich bin ich sehr froh, durch den Aufenthalt in Cambridge die Möglichkeit zu ruhigem und geduldigem Abwarten bekommen zu haben.

Nun erhielt ich hier vor einigen Tagen einen Brief von Franck, aus Harvard, welcher mir auf grund von Besprechungen mit Weaver mitteilte, dass in Berkeley keinerlei Aussichten beständen, während wahrscheinlich bald eine längere Einladung nach New York erfolgen würde, die ich dann unbedingt annehmen sollte. Im Gegensatz dazu erhielt ich gestern einen Brief von dem Vizepräsidenten der University of Calif., Dr. Deutsch, welcher mich für das Semester vom 15. August bis Anfang Dezember einlädt. (Es handelt sich um die Verschiebung einer ursprünglich für dieses Wintersemester ausgesprochenen Einladung). Ich bin nun in einiger Verlegenheit. An sich würde ich äusserst gern nach Berkeley gehen. Aber ich darf nicht durch die endgültige Annahme einer anscheinend ^{en} nur sehr vorübergehend gemeinten Einladung die wohl stabilere Möglichkeit in New York ~~nicht~~ gefährden.

Da ich die Verhältnisse von hier aus schwer übersehen kann und da ich weiss, dass Sie sich um die Angelegenheiten so stark bemüht haben, so möchte ich nicht gern einen ~~bindenden~~ Schritt ohne Ihren Rat oder Ihr Einverständnis tun. ~~Bitte~~ Hoffentlich werden Sie es nicht als zu grosse Unbescheidenheit auffassen, wenn ich Sie daher bitte, mir wenn möglich bald durch einen night letter einen Wink zu geben. Ich werde bis etwa zum 8. Januar hier sein und denke spätestens am 11. Januar in Cambridge einzutreffen, wo ich c.o. Prof. Born 246 Hills Road zu erreichen bin.

Viele sehr herzliche Grüsse und Wünsche zum Neuen Jahr auch an
Ihre Familie

Ihr



December 16, 1933

Dear Professor Courant:

I have your two letters, which tell me about the situation at Göttingen and Cambridge. If the Göttingen situation were not so tragic, it would really belong in the realm of opera bouffe. I am glad that for the present you are out of it, for I know that you will enjoy the freedom and comradeship which you will find in Cambridge. I see no future in Germany, for the damage which the present government has done to its universities is simply irreparable. It will require generations after the disappearance of the Nazis to bring back the good old days when scholarship was honored for its own sake.

Webster and I are continuing our efforts in your behalf, and I am hopeful that we shall succeed in arranging for you a congenial post which will give scope to your talents and the peace of mind which you and your family require and deserve. Next week I am going to New York where I shall have several interviews bearing on this subject, and I shall report their outcome to you in the course of the Christmas holidays.

I ^{have} should/been able to accomplish more but for an attack of neuritis which has interfered with my freedom of movement. It is painful, but not serious. I assure you that it will not interfere with the efforts which I want to make in your behalf.

My wife and children join me in warmest greetings and in wishing that

Professor Courant

December 16, 1933

2

the New Year and all succeeding years may be for you and your family very different from that through which you have just passed.

Ever sincerely your friend,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor R. Courant
35 Sidney Street
Cambridge, England

AF:ESB

November 14, 1933

Dear Professor Courant:

I have just learned from Professor Weyl and Professor Veblen that you are going to spend this year in Cambridge. Meanwhile, I wish to report that Veblen and I have been actively exploring possibilities of a permanent post for you in this country and that we shall not lessen our efforts. I feel certain that with patience we shall find a position in which your talents and ability will have full scope and in which you and your family will be thoroughly happy.

The American newspapers regard Sunday's election much in the light of a joke. On the other hand, of course, when people can only vote one way and are acting under terror, there is no reason to expect a considerable opposition. The general feeling is that the expressed opposition of three million persons was much more than could have been anticipated and an indication of far more unrest than the present rulers of Germany are willing to admit. I have in addition letters mailed outside of Germany by thoroughly loyal Germans that have shown beyond all shadow of doubt the hollowness and humbug of the vaunted unanimity in regard to Hitler and his associates. Sympathy in this country, as in England, is absolutely undivided. Hitler has succeeded in making enemies for his government out of Germany's best friends.

My wife joins me in warmest greetings to you and best wishes for you and your family.

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Richard Courant
35 Sidney Street

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Cambridge England 12. 11. 33. 35/36 Sidneystreet

Sehr verehrter lieber Dr. Flexner!

Zur Ergänzung meines vorige Woche an Sie abgesandten Berichtes möchte ich Ihnen heute mitteilen, dass leider immer mehr klar wird, wie aussichtslos die Göttinger Situation ist, selbst in Fällen, wo von der Regierung her keine Schwierigkeiten gemacht werden. Folgende Ereignis ist charakteristisch dafür: Prof. Landau, der in seinem Amte formal völlig unangetastet ist, wollte vorige Woche seine Vorlesung anfangen. Er fand etwa 70 Studenten, zum Teil in Sturmtrupp uniform vor dem Hörsaal versammelt, innen aber keinen Menschen. Jeder Student, der hatte hineingehen wollen, war von dem Boykottkommando verhindert worden. Landau ging in sein Zimmer zurück, wurde alsbald von einem Sprecher der Nazistudenten aufgesucht und darüber belehrt, dass die arischen Studenten arische Mathematik und keine jüdische hören wollten und daher Landau um Verzicht auf die Abhaltung der Vorlesung bäten. Landau, der ja glücklicherweise finanziell sehr unabhängig ist, will daraufhin gänzlich zurücktreten. Der Sprecher der Studenten ist ein ganz junger, wissenschaftlich begabter, aber völlig unklarer und notorisch verrückter Bursche. Es scheint sicher, dass im Hintergrunde zum mindestens sympathisierend mehr autoritativ Leute stehen, welche die Zerstörung der Göttinger mathematisch-naturwissenschaftlichen Institutionen ziemlich offen proklamieren, z.B. der jetzige Rektor.

Ich schreibe Ihnen von diesem Vorfall, um nochmals zu betonen, dass die rein formale Haltung der Regierung, welche jetzt weitere formelle Entlassungen zu vermeiden suchen scheint, keine faktische Bedeutung hat.

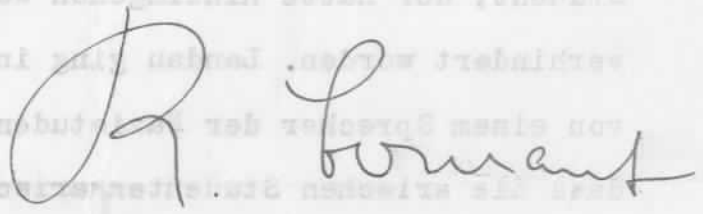
Auch mehr persönliche Erlebnisse zeigen mit wachsender Deutlich-

keit, dass man durchaus mit der Familie aus Deutschland wegstreben muss. Eben ist meine kleine fünfjährige Tochter wegen nicht-arischer Abstammung aus einem Kindergarten hinausgeworfen worden, nachdem dasselbe meine älteren Kindern schon vor einiger Zeit mit einem Schwimm-

klub passiert war. In der wunderbar ruhigen und stabilen Atmosphäre hier kann man sich alle diese Wahnsinnigkeiten kaum vorstellen. Für meine Frau, die mit den Kindern in G. bleiben musste, ist es natürlich recht schwierig.

Sehr herzliche Grüße und Wünsche für Ihre Gesundheit

Ihr



Cambridge, 4. 11. 33.

35 Sidney H.

Lieber Verehrter Herr Dr. Flexner!

Vielen herzlichen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 20. Oktober, der mir soeben hierher übermittelt wurde. Ich freue mich sehr über die günstigen Nachrichten betreffend Ihre Gesundheit, und ich hoffe, dass Sie bald wieder so frisch und kräftig sein werden wie damals in Ihrem Canadischen Camp.

Seit einigen Tagen bin ich hier in Cambridge, und obwohl ich noch nicht richtig stabilisiert bin, fühle ich doch die bedrückende Atmosphäre hinter mir in Deutschland wie einen fernen unwirklichen Traum, der einen nicht fortwährend in seinem inneren Gleichgewicht zu stören braucht. Ich benutze sehr gern die Gelegenheit, um Ihnen etwas freier über die Situation zu berichten. Über die allgemeine Lage in Deutschland ist sehr schwer eine einigermaßen objektiv ~~xx~~ begründete Prognose zu geben. Je nach den persönlichen Erfahrungen sind auch die gut unterrichteten Leute sehr verschiedener Meinung schwankend zwischen absolutem Pessimismus und der Zuversicht, dass schliesslich - wenigstens in wirtschaftlicher Hinsicht - eine gewisse Beruhigung und Stabilisierung eintreten wird. Sicher ist, dass bei den inneren Spannungen in der Nazipartei zwischen den mehr Bolschewistischen Gruppen und den mehr nationalistisch-konservativen Kräften die letzteren jetzt die Oberhand gewonnen haben und, ^{nicht} wenn alles wirtschaftlich drunter und drüber geht, auch behalten werden. Konsequenter dieselbe Linie haben die Nazis im wesentlichen nur in der sogenannten Judenfrage beibehalten. Hier wird mit einer teuflischen Systematik alles getan, um der heranwachsenden Generation von Leuten mit auch nur einer jüdischen Grossmutter jede bessere Zukunft zu verbauen. Alle Wege zu höheren Berufen, wie Lehrer, Arzt, Jurist, Beamter, Wissenschaftler usw. sind prinzipiell gesperrt. Es wird mit

allen Mitteln versucht, eine lächerliche Rassentheorie (deren wesentlicher Bestandteil Antisemitismus ist) durch Propaganda jeder Art, vor allem durch den Schulunterricht, durch Sonderkurse für Studenten, Ärzte, Beamte, Handwerker usw. in die Seelen des Volkes hineinzuhämmern, und es kann leicht passieren, dass durch diese irrsinnige Giftsaat, wenn sie erst aufgegangen ist, ~~jetzt~~ eine noch viel schlimmere Atmosphäre entsteht als jetzt. Darum muss eigentlich die persönliche Konsequenz für jeden, dessen Kinder betroffen sind, die sein, dass er ins Ausland geht, wenn sich dort irgend eine vernünftige Existenzmöglichkeit für ihn findet.

Das Gefüge der Universitäten ist aufs schwerste getroffen. Besonders schlimm steht es um die Frage des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses; hier ist die Auswahl nicht nur durch die sinnlosen "Arier" Bestimmungen gehemmt, sondern neuerdings durch die Forderung, dass jeder Assistent und jeder Dozent unter 35 Jahren nicht neu ernannt oder bestätigt wird, wenn er nicht nachweist, dass er in einem Wehrspätlager körperlich und gesinnungsmässig befriedigende Leistungen gezeigt hat. Im übrigen aber hat man anscheinend in einigen Fällen im Ministerium hinsichtlich ~~ex~~ der Entlassung bekannterer Professoren etwas Bedenken bekommen und Neigung zum Einlenken gezeigt. Das Ministerium hat z.B. bei Born und bei mir die erwartete endgültige Entlassung nicht ausgesprochen, sondern einen freiwilligen Urlaub nach Cambridge erteilt. Ebenso hat man Herrn Schrödinger, der wegen eines Rufes nach Oxford um Entlassung gebeten hatte, nahe gelegt, statt dessen erstmal sich lieber beurlauben zu lassen. Ähnlich in anderen Fällen. Für den Einzelnen kann dies natürlich einen gewissen, unter Umständen wichtigen Rückhalt bedeuten. Aber unter den heutigen, wahrscheinlich für langezeit stabilen Zuständen ändert es nichts an dem dringenden Wunsche, schon der Kinder wegen wegzugehen.

Meine persönliche Lage ist in dieser Hinsicht die folgende: Die Einladung nach Cambridge ist strikt auf ein Jahr befristet. Sie schien zunächst für drei Jahre gesichert zu sein; aber es sind dann, wie Hardy mir sagte, Schwierigkeiten bei der Finanzierung entstanden, weil die Rockefellerfoundation ihre Mitwirkung von der Sicherung anderer Beiträge ab-

hängig machte und diese Sicherung für einen längeren Zeitraum als ein Jahr nicht erreichbar war. Ich muss also - nach Hardys Meinung - absolut damit rechnen, dass mein Aufenthalt in Cambridge im nächsten Juni mit dem summerterm zu Ende ist.

Sie können sich unter den geschilderten Umständen vorstellen, wie dankbar und froh ich über Ihre Bemühungen für mich in Amerika bin. Berkeley ist für mich ganz besonders verlockend. Wie Harald Bohr Ihnen ja wohl schon früher schrieb, habe ich ~~xxx~~ im September eine Einladung für 5 Monate dorthin erhalten, die allerdings mit ^{zeitlich} Cambridge kollidierte. (Auf meine Rückfrage, ob eine Verschiebung möglich sei, habe ich bisher noch keine Antwort erhalten). Wenn sich jetzt in Berkeley eine Möglichkeit für längere Zeit öffnet, sodass ich meine Familie mitnehmen kann, so wäre dies natürlich eine sehr befriedigende Lösung.

Ich habe vorläufig, solange die Zukunft noch so ganz ungeklärt vor mir liegt, meine Familie in Göttingen gelassen. Die Kinder hatten dort bisher in der Schule (natürlich von einzelnen Fällen abgesehen) noch keine schlimmen Schwierigkeiten, und ich möchte gern für sie einen mehrfachen Umgebungswechsel innerhalb kurzer Zeit vermeiden, abgesehen von den finanziellen Problemen, die damit verknüpft wären. In den Weihnachtsferien denke ich, zu meiner Familie zu reisen. Hoffentlich hat sich bis dahin die Lage soweit geklärt, dass man schon weiter disponieren kann.

Sobald ich sehe, dass irgend etwas an der Situation sich ändert, werde ich Ihnen wieder schreiben. Für heute nur nochmals die herzlichsten Wünsche für Ihre Gesundheit, und ebenscherzliche Grüsse an Sie und Ihre Familie von Ihrem

R. Courant

^d Adresse Cambridge, 35 Sidney Street. ~~xxx~~

Records of the Office of the Director : General Files / Box 15 / Courant, Richard

From the Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, USA

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Courant

G. B. Hardy

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

October 20, 1933

Dear Professor Courant:

I have your letter of October 4, and I am delighted to know that you are going to Cambridge, where you will, I am sure, be extremely happy. I am deeply concerned for the future of yourself and your family, and Veblen and I are doing everything in our power to procure for you a permanent location. I have written a letter on the subject to the President of the University of California, but I have not heard from him. Meanwhile I shall await with interest the letter which you promised to write me from Cambridge, in order that I may know exactly what your situation is. I feel very sure that a permanent opening will present itself.

My health is improved, but I am still somewhat below my usual vigor. However, I am assured that all I need is patience.

With heartiest greetings and best wishes, in which my wife joins,

Ever sincerely,

Professor Richard Courant
Care Prof. Dr. H. Hopf
Schlösslistr.2
Zürich, Switzerland
AF:GB

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

PROFESSOR DR. RICHARD COURANT

GÖTTINGEN, EN 4. Oktober 1933
WILH. WEBER-STR. 21

Herrn

Dr. A. Flexner

Institute for Advanced Study

Princeton.

Lieber verehrter Herr Dr. Flexner,

Vielen herzlichen Dank für Ihren Brief vom 12. September, den ich richtig empfang. Ich bin sehr erschrocken darüber, dass es Ihnen anscheinend wirklich schlecht gegangen ist. Aber ich glaube, doch aus Ihrem Brief entnehmen zu können, dass Sie jetzt entschieden wieder auf dem Wege zur Wiedergewinnung Ihrer vollen Frische und Aktionsfähigkeit sich befinden. Ihnen und all den vielen Menschen, für welche Sie so ungeheuer viel bedeuten, sende ich zu Ihrer Genesung die allerherzlichsten Wünsche.

Dass Sie sich in so freundlicher Weise um meine persönlichen Angelegenheiten kümmern, hat mich in diesen Zeiten der Unsicherheit und Verzweiflung sehr beruhigt. Das Problem ist ja bei mir ein wenig schwieriger als manchen anderen, insbesondere jüngeren Leuten, weil ich 4 Kinder im Alter von 5 bis 13 Jahren habe und infolgedessen nicht ganz so beweglich bin. Aber nach Ihrem Briefe ich hoffe doch sehr, dass sich ein Weg zu einem vernünftigen stabilen Zustand finden lassen wird.

Es ist sehr schwer, von hier aus klare und vernünftige Dispositionen zu treffen. Ich hoffe aber, Anfang November nach Cambridge (England) zu gehen und dort einige Zeit bleiben zu können. Von Cambridge aus will ich Ihnen dann nochmals etwas genauer schreiben, wie der Aspekt meiner näheren Zukunft aussieht.

PROFESSOR DR. RICHARD COURANT

GÖTTINGEN
WILH. WEBER-STRA. 21

Herrn

Dr. A. F. I. e. n. e. r.

Institute for Advanced Study

Princeton

Einstweilen habe ich meine Angelegenheiten in die Hände
meiner Freunde Niels und Harald Bohr gelegt.

Lieber verehrter Herr Dr. Courant,

Nochmals vielen herzlichen Dank für Ihre freund-
schaftliche Gesinnung mir gegenüber - die ich wohl leider
auch wirklich werde ausnützen müssen - und vor allem die
herzlichsten Wünsche für Ihre Gesundheit

Ihr tief ergebener

R. Courant

red. Courant

May 18, 1933

Dear Professor Courant:

I have your letter of May 2, postmarked Zurich. I had already heard of the outrageous action of the German Ministry toward you. In so far as sympathy goes, I can assure you and your associates that the Hitler regime has completely alienated Great Britain and the United States, and that we are doing everything in our power to make provision for those whom the German government has treated so ruthlessly. I can only explain their action on the theory that there is a sort of mass insanity which, let us hope, may soon pass. I hope that you can all retain your morale, so that your scientific usefulness may not be seriously interrupted. Unfortunately, at the moment, both in England and in the United States, financial conditions are bad, so that it is not possible to do what would have been readily done under other conditions.

As far as the Institute for Advanced Study is concerned, we have set aside for the subject of mathematics as much as, under existing conditions, we safely can, in order to meet obligations which have been wholly or partially incurred. That you would add to the distinction of the group

Professor Richard Courant - 2

May 18, 1933

I need not assure you. Veblen and I, however, as soon as we heard that you had been practically dismissed, began the search for opportunities for you. He has written to the authorities of the University of California, and I have written to the authorities of the University of Pennsylvania, both of which institutions need to add to the strength of their mathematical faculties. As soon as I have a reply I will communicate with you. Meanwhile, you need not hesitate to write me at any time regarding yourself or any of your associates, for I shall do everything in my power to see to it that you find opportunities befitting your great merits.

I trust that your family is safe. My wife joins me in very warm greetings to you, and I beg you also to convey my best wishes to Professors Born and Neugebauer.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Herrn Prof. Dr. Richard Courant
Care Prof. Dr. H. Zangger
Zürichbergstrasse 8
Zürich, Switzerland
AF:GB

P.S. I have heard nothing of Fraulein Noether. I wonder if she is still in Göttingen?

PROFESSOR DR. RICHARD COURANT

GÖTTINGEN, DEN 2. Mai 1933
WILHELM WEBER-STR. 21

Please return

Herrn Dr. A. Flexner

Institute for advanced study.

100 East 42 nd Street
New York City.

5/2/33

Lieber verehrter Herr Dr. Flexner,

Ihre grosse Freundlichkeit, die Sie mir gegenüber stets bewiesen haben, ermuntert mich dazu, Ihnen offener als ich das sonst tun könnte, über einige uns hier jetzt stark bewegende Fragen zu schreiben. Die allgemeine Entwicklung in Deutschland werden Sie ja als einer der verständnisvollsten und aktivsten Freunde Deutschlands so gut verfolgt haben, dass es nicht nötig ist, Ihnen darüber viel zu schreiben. Es ist für uns selber, die wir hier mitten in der Umwälzung leben, sehr schwer, ein zusammenhängendes Bild von dem Ganzen, losgelöst von dem Gesichtswinkel der eigenen Existenz, zu gewinnen.

Aber ich kann soviel sagen, dass es hier in Deutschland eine relativ kleine und ständig abnehmende Zahl von Menschen gibt, die sich dem Eindruck der neuen einheitlichen Auffassungen und Begeisterung entziehen können. Die Regierung verfügt innerpolitisch über eine Macht und Aktionsfähigkeit, wie sie wahrscheinlich in der Welt noch kaum dagewesen ist. Ich will und brauche Ihnen aber heute nicht eine Erläuterung zu diesen Dingen zu geben, sondern ich wollte nur Ihre Aufmerksamkeit darauf lenken, dass durch die neue Geistesrichtung der engere Bezirk, in dem Ihre und unsere Interessen sich unmittelbar treffen, nämlich die Universitäten und insbesondere die exakten Wissenschaften, empfindlich berührt wird.

Das Bild der deutschen Universitäten aus Ihrem wundervollen
Buche entspricht zunächst nicht mehr den gegenwärtigen Tatsachen.
Die Regierung ist ^{teils} unter dem Druck der Studentenvertretung (welche
ihrerseits nicht durch Wahlen sondern durch Ernennung zustande
kommt) zum Teil aus der neuen geistigen Einstellung heraus zu
ziemlich einschneidenden Massnahmen übergegangen. Mit am stärk-
sten ist nun gerade unsere Göttinger Fakultät betroffen worden.
Es sind in unserem engsten Kreise der theoretische Physiker Max
Born und ich selbst "beurlaubt" worden. Danach müssen wir auf
Grund des neuen Beamtengesetzes, welches die früheren verfassungs-
mässigen Rechte aufhebt, mit einer endgültigen Entlassung rechnen.
Auch Prof. Neugebauer hat seine Beurlaubung, allerdings in einer
etwas milderer und leichter reversiblen Form (nicht durch den
Minister sondern durch den Dekan) erhalten. Im wesentlichen ist
Weyl jetzt hier im Mathematischen Institut der einzige Mann (ausser
Herglotz), welcher unangetastet in seinem Amt geblieben ist. Es
liegt diesen Massnahmen im ganzen zweifellos eine prinzipielle
Einstimmung gegen die voraussetzungslosen exakten Wissenschaften
zugrunde, und es besteht zu meinem grossen Schmerz die Wahrchein-
lichkeit, dass die Blüte unserer wissenschaftlichen Gruppe hier
verloren ist. Natürlich fühle ich mich schon durch die damaligen
Verhandlungen mit der Rockefeller Foundation-moralisch dazu ver-
pflichtet, noch nach Kräften einzutreten. Aber ich bin ganz ausser-
ordentlich skeptisch.
Persönliche Pläne für die Zukunft haben weder ich noch
Born bisher fassen können. Zunächst werde ich mit

Das Bild der deutschen Universitäten aus Ihrem wundervollen Buche entspricht zunächst nicht mehr den gegenwärtigen Tatsachen. Die Regierung ist ^{teils} unter dem Druck der Studentenvertretung (welche ihrerseits nicht durch Wahlen sondern durch Ernennung zustande kommt) zum Teil aus der neuen geistigen Einstellung heraus zu ziemlich einschneidenden Massnahmen übergegangen. Mit am stärksten ist nun gerade unsere Göttinger Fakultät betroffen worden. Es sind in unserem engsten Kreise der theoretische Physiker Max Born und ich selbst "beurlaubt" worden. Danach müssen wir auf Grund des neuen Beamtengesetzes, welches die früheren verfassungsmässigen Rechte aufhebt, mit einer endgültigen Entlassung rechnen. Auch Prof. Neugebauer hat seine Beurlaubung, allerdings in einer etwas mildereren und leichter reversiblen Form (nicht durch den Minister sondern durch den Dekan) erhalten. Im wesentlichen ist Weyl jetzt hier im Mathematischen Institut der einzige Mann (ausser Herglotz), welcher unangetastet in seinem Amt geblieben ist. Es liegt diesen Massnahmen im ganzen zweifellos eine prinzipielle Stimmung gegen die voraussetzungslosen exakten Wissenschaften zugrunde, und es besteht zu meinem grossen Schmerz die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass die Blüte unserer wissenschaftlichen Gruppe hier vorbei ist. Natürlich fühle ich mich schon durch die damaligen Verhandlungen mit der Rockefeller Foundation-moralisch dazu verpflichtet, noch für die Rettung und Aufrechterhaltung dieser Institutionen nach Kräften einzutreten. Aber ich bin ganz ausserordentlich skeptisch.

Persönliche Pläne für die Zukunft haben weder ich noch Neugebauer noch Born bisher fassen können. Zunächst werde ich mit

PROFESSOR DR. RICHARD COURANT

GÖTTINGEN, DEN 2. Mai 1933
WILHELM-STR. 21

- 2 -

allen Kräften versuchen, trotz des psychischen Drückes, den zweiten Band meiner "Methoden der mathematischen Physik" fertig zu machen; ich habe an der Vorbereitung dieses Werkes, das sehr viel Neues enthalten wird, etwa 7 Jahre gearbeitet, und ich glaube, dass mit seiner Publikation dann wirklich auch sachlich für die Wissenschaft etwas geleistet sein wird. - Neugebauer wird ebenfalls bis auf weiteres hier bleiben und seine historischen Untersuchungen weiter fördern. In der Zwischenzeit müssen wir natürlich versuchen, irgendwo in der Welt einen Platz zu finden, wo wir mit unseren Familien ruhig und ohne Sorgen die wissenschaftliche Arbeit fortsetzen können.

Ich schreibe deswegen ganz offen an Sie mit der Frage, ob Sie uns dabei irgendwie helfen können. Dass ich z.B. nicht eine der glänzenden Positionen an Ihrem Institut anstrebe, sondern mich durchaus mit einer bescheidneren Stellung begnügen würde, brauche ich nicht zu sagen. Auf der anderen Seite glaube ich rein sachlich, in einer neuen Umgebung doch wieder etwas leisten und nützen zu können. - Natürlich gilt dasselbe für Neugebauer.

Ich hoffe sehr, dass die jetzigen Schwierigkeiten drüben sich bald mildern werden, sodass dieser Ausweg tatsächlich sich öffnet. Was darüber hinaus ein menschlich-persönlicher Kontakt mit Ihnen für uns bedeuten würde, brauche ich Ihnen kaum zu sagen. Mehr möchte ich über all diese Dinge heute nicht schreiben.

Jedenfalls sind wir hier herzlich froh und fühlen
uns vom Schicksal begünstigt, dass wir in dieser Zeit Freun-
de wie Sie, Harald und Niels Bohr, Hardy usw. in der Welt
besitzen.

Mit vielen sehr herzlichen Grüßen

Ihr

R. Courant

August 24, 1932

Dear Professor Courant:

Thank you very much for your kind note and for the check which was entirely adequate.

My wife and I have talked often of the delightful, but altogether too brief, visit which you paid us here and which we hope that you may repeat in a more leisurely fashion sometime in the future. She and Mrs. Bailey and all the other members of the family join me in warmest greetings and all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Herrn Prof. Dr. R. Courant
Mathematical Institute
University of Göttingen
Göttingen, Germany

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

New York, 20. August 32.

Sehr verehrter lieber Herr Dr. Flexner!

Beiliegend sende ich einen Scheck, der hoffentlich das genaue
Äquivalent für die mir geliehenen 21 ²canadische Dollar darstellt.

Ich bin momentan etwas im Druck wegen der vielen Dinge, die ich hier
noch vor meiner Abreise tun muss, und ich finde daher nicht die Ruhe, um
in adäquater Weise meine herzlichen Gefühle der Dankbarkeit gegen Sie und
Ihre Frau auszudrücken. Aber Sie werden mir auch ohnedies glauben, dass
mein Zusammentreffen mit Ihnen und der Aufenthalt in Ihrem Hause ganz
ausserordentlich viel für mich bedeutet hat und dass ich von Herzen auf
eine Fortsetzung dieser Beziehungen hoffe.

Mit vielen Grüssen an Sie und die andern Bewohner Ihres
Camps verbleibe ich Ihr sehr ergebener

R. Courant