

KENNETH O. MAY

CORRESPONDENCE FILES - VOL. I.

1937 - 1944

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6. " " " " " fr. "Who's Who" 1936-37
7. Letter Louis Brownlow-WSR - Re association of KOM with Public Administration Clearing House, Chicago. " 23, "
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139.	" " " - Meeting with WSR; suggestions for Institute personnel, A.E.Flanigan.	" 22, "
140.	Clippings from "The Rucksack" - 87th Inf. paper containing editorial & verse by KOM.	" 24, "
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142.	" " -WSR - Comments on Hindus article.	" 21, "
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144.	Enclosure with above: letter from Ruth Doak -group singing.	Apr. "
145.	Letter KOM-WSR - U.S.Army policy; comments on "America in Arms," by Gen. D.M. Palmer; Fighting Forces Series of publications; U.S. Army as subject for study.	May 14, "
146.	" WSR-L.M.Gould - Re Kenneth May.	" 16, "
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148.	" L.Gould-WSR - Request for transfer of KOM to ADTIC.	" 27, "
149.	" KOM-WSR - Furlough in Berkeley & interview with Dean Lipman, etc.	June 7, "
150.	" WSR-KOM - Prof. Neyman; Arctic, Desert & Tropic Info. Center.	" 12, "
151.	" KOM-WSR - Russian studies; opportunities for postwar study in Russia.	" 16, "
152.	" " " - Transfer to Texas; study opportunities; completion of Ph.D.	" 29, "
153.	" WSR-KOM - Russian studies at Cornell; Ph.D.	July 6, "
154.	" KOM-WSR - " reading; Africa as an area for study.	" 16, "
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156.	" " " - Kiska picture; exam. for O.C.S.	" 27, "
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158.	Letter WSR-KOM - Ack. Kiska picture.	Sept. 6, "
159.	" KOM-WSR - Kiska beard; JOC's letter to <u>Life</u> re Bullitt article; GI views on postwar situation; politics.	Sept. 24, "
160.	" " " - Cancellation of order to O.C.S.	" 28, "
161.	" WSR-KOM - " " " " " " " " " "	Oct. 12, "
162.	" KOM-WSR - Dr. E.W. Zimmerman; Harry M. Shoosham; row at U. of Texas; orientation classes.	" 16, "
163.	" WSR-KOM - Institute annual meeting; Shoosham; request for memo on orientation work; reactionary trend in Middlewestern universities.	" 31, "
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169.	Clipping re KOM promotion in Berkeley Daily Gazette.	" 14, "
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172.	Excerpt of letter from Victor Clark re KOM letters on orientation in the army.	Dec. 22, 1944
173.	Letter KOM-WSR - Re moving of regiment; clipping.	" " "
174.	" W.V.Bingham-M.Perkins - re KOM letters on orientation in the army.	" " "
175.	" WSR-KOM - Regimental insignia.	" 23, "
176.	" KOM-WSR - #3 on orientation in army.	" 25, "
177.	" -HKP - Re copies of letters; mailing list.	" 26, "
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1909 Walnut Street
Berkeley, California
February 15, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
% Charles R. Crane
Palm Springs, California

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Since our conversation in San Francisco last Saturday I have talked the matter over with my father and find that he approves. Upon further consideration my original interest and enthusiasm have not decreased, and I am certain that the Institute's aid would enable me to continue my training in the best possible way. Please let me know if you wish information or references in addition to what is offered below.

I received my A.B. with "highest honours in mathematics" from the University of California in May 1936. In May of this year I will have an M.A. in the same field and will have completed formal course

requirements for the Ph.D. [The following is a list of principal subjects studied since entering college:

Mathematics--College Algebra, Theory of Equations, Logistic, Plane and Solid Analytic Geometry, Projective Geometry, Algebraic Geometry, Advanced Calculus, Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations, Functions of a Complex Variable, and Real Variable Theory.

Economics--Elementary course, History of Economic Doctrine, and Mathematical Economics. In the last named I have been particularly interested in mathematical work based on measurable quantities and the concepts of statistics and accounting.

Statistics--A course including the study of multiple correlation, curve fitting, and Pearson's and Charlier's Curves.

Languages--I have a good reading knowledge of French, German, and Italian.

Miscellaneous--Physics, Chemistry, Navigation, Naval Science and Tactics, Philosophy.

As an undergraduate I took part in various student activities. For example, I was secretary of the Student Institute of Pacific Relations (1933), a counselor of Phi Beta Kappa, a member of the Student Judicial Council (entrusted by the president of the University with cases of student discipline), and

chairman of the Open Forum connected with the Associated Students. I won a letter in varsity soccer. At present I have the following affiliations: American Mathematical Society, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Mu Epsilon (Mathematics), Sigma Xi (Science), Order of the Golden Bear (Senior Society), American Federation of Teachers (I am a teaching assistant at the University), and the Sierra Club of California.

In connection with the last named club, I was co-founder of its Rock Climbing Section and have acted as mountaineering guide and instructor on its outings. I am a third class skier (British Ski Club and A.M.C. standards) and have made numerous mountaineering ascents, some in the Extra Severe class (Bavarian standards). I own and use a Leica camera.

The following people are acquainted with me personally, the first two particularly with my academic work: Griffith C. Evans, Chairman of the Department of Mathematics, U.C.; Charles B. Lipman, Dean of the Graduate Division; Joel H. Hildebrand, Professor of Chemistry, U.C.; Alan C. Blaisdell, Director of International House, Berkeley; Louis Brownlow, Director of the Public Administration Clearing House, Chicago; and Professor H. D. Lasswell, University of Chicago.

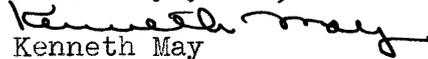
(Kenneth May)

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Before I knew of the possibility of studying in the U.S.S.R., my plan was to continue work for the Ph. D. at the University of California and then to go wherever I could get the best training in statistical work. The proposal you outlined would enable me to carry on just the studies I wish in statistics and economic planning and to do so in close contact with practical work. The opportunity is not only unique in itself, but most appropriate to my present interests and future plans. It comes at an excellent time, just when I have finished formal course work in mathematics and am anxious to get to practical applications.

In the event that you send me to study in Russia I will be prepared to work hard, to fit myself into Russian student life, and to learn to know the people and the country as intimately as possible. In short I will take every advantage of the opportunity to become a specialist in the field thus opened to me.

Sincerely yours,


Kenneth May

P.S. I should like to receive the law student's news letter which you told me about, if that is convenient.

May

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
BERKELEY

February 18, 1937

Dr. Walter S. Rogers
Director, Institute of Current World Affairs
Care of Mr. Charles R. Crane
Palm Springs, California

Dear Dr. Rogers:

I took the liberty of rushing your acquaintance with Mr. Kenneth May in order that you should get some idea of his personality before you left. I should like to supplement that knowledge with other information.

In making the recommendation I am giving preference to Kenneth May over those six or seven graduate students in pure mathematics who, among the graduate students whom we have in mathematics, may reasonably expect university rather than college academic careers, as well as over two other students in mathematical economics of somewhat the same high quality. In the group of students of pure mathematics, Mr. May would probably stand second rather than first, but that is because the first student is one who has entirely exceptional gifts for pure mathematics. The University of California recommended Kenneth May and one other (not the one mentioned above) to Harvard University for possible appointment to their Society of Fellows. The other two students who seem particularly qualified for the appointment to which you refer are able and I hope will make contributions to economic theory, but I do not believe that they are on the same level intellectually or in personality with Kenneth May. Although he is just completing his first year of graduate study, he will have covered all the course work that we can ask of a candidate for the Ph.D., so that he is much more advanced than his age indicates.

As an undergraduate, he was one of a group of four or five friends, in particular, Gordon Griffiths and John Dyer-Bennet, all of the highest academic rank and members of the Phi Beta Kappa, majoring in different subjects and all very much alive to political and social questions, who thus contributed much to each other's development.

I am quite confident in my belief that another student with such a happy combination of qualities for your particular interests will be hard to find.

*This number is unusually high
this year. G.C.E.*

It was a pleasure to meet you the other day and
I hope that we shall run across each other again.

Very sincerely yours,

Griffith C Evans.

GCE:sh

February 25, 1937

Mr. Kenneth May
1909 Walnut Street
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Mr. May:

Yesterday while at the Scripps Ranch near San Diego I received a telegram from Professor Sauer reading: "Regret that flu continues to keep me incapacitated."

In the late afternoon I took a plane for San Francisco, when about halfway to Los Angeles the plane turned around to return to San Diego. As my second trip to Berkeley was planned mainly to see Professor Sauer and as I am days behind on my schedule, I have decided to go east from here.

Your letter is very satisfactory, but I should like to have in addition your age and a little about your family. Please send the information to my New York address -- 522 - 5th Avenue.

The next step will be for me to talk with my associates and with the Soviet Ambassador. As I shall not reach Washington until about three weeks hence, you probably will not hear from me again until the latter part of March.

While at Palm Springs I showed your letter to Mr. Charles R. Crane, who as you may recall is one of the Trustees of our little institute and the donor of most of its endowment. He said that he would like to see you. If along toward the latter part of March you can spare the time I suggest that you call on him. The Institute will reimburse you for any expense involved.

If you do go to Palm Springs, I would like to have you stop off in Los Angeles long enough to have a talk with Mrs. Celestine M. Elliot, 622³/₄ North Sweetzer Street, She has moved about the world, and I respect any judgment she makes.

It would be well to write in advance to Mr. Crane and Mrs. Elliot. He leaves for Washington about the 10th of April. Mrs. Elliot you may not be able to find as she is away much of the time.

Yours sincerely,

WSR

1909 Walnut Street
Berkeley, California
March 3, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 5th Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

It was too bad that the weather and Prof. Sauer's illness prevented your visiting Berkeley again. However, I was glad to get your letter of February 25 and yesterday wrote to Mr. Crane and Mrs. Elliot as you suggested.

In answer to your first question, I was born in Portland, Oregon on July 8, 1915 and hence will be twenty-two this July. In answer to the second, I enclose a copy of my father's biography as it appears in Who's Who In America for 1936-1937 and a copy of a press bulletin. In addition, the following may be of interest:

My father's grandparents came to California in the early fifties, and his parents, after their marriage, moved to Oregon where he was born. Of this side of the family there remains only my father's sister and her family. My mother was born in Cambridge, England. Her father was an architect, while my other grandfather was a business man. Relatives on my mother's side are living in various parts of England with the family names of Parkin, Ownsworth, Dodgson, and Thompson. Both my mother and father travelled extensively in Europe, and on two occasions my brother, Randolph, and I accompanied them. The latter is now working with the State Relief Administration. In addition to family friends abroad I have acquaintances and friends in England, France, Germany, Italy, China, and Japan most of whom I met while they were visiting or studying at the University of California.

Of the references I gave you Mr. Brownlow and Mr. Blaisdell are best acquainted with my family. Other^s who could give you information are: Mr. Luther Gulick, Director, Institute of

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Public Administration, 302 East 35th Street, New York City; Mr. Duncan McDuffie, 22 Roble rd., Berkeley; and Mr. Anson S. Blake, Arlington Ave. and Rincon rd., Berkeley.

If you wish further information or if there is anything else I can do, please let me know. If not, I shall look forward to hearing from you toward the end of March.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth May
Kenneth May

P.S: Your note of Feb. 28 from Houston arrived just as I was about to mail this letter. Thank you very much for the information about Mrs. Elliot's plans. As it happens the most convenient time for me is about March 25-28 which is when I will go if that is convenient for Mr. Craue. I shall be very glad to hear from Mr. Brown if he should communicate with me. What you said of his wife's family reminds me that I have said nothing about my religious affiliation. The fact is that, altho I am not by any means unacquainted with the Bible, I do not belong to any church. With best wishes for the remainder of your trip, I remain yours faithfully Kenneth May

② my mother's family were
* of course members
of the Church of England
& my father is a
member of the Unitarian
Church, where I
went to Sunday School
& sometimes attended
services.

(Copy of information given to press before speaking engagements, etc.)

SAMUEL C. MAY

Professor Samuel C. May has been a member of the Department of Political Science at the University of California since 1921. In 1930 he became Director of the Bureau of Public Administration, University of California, an agency for governmental research, informational service, and training.

Professor May was a member of the City Council, Berkeley, for two years, and is now a member of the Board of Library Trustees, Berkeley. He has been director of research for the Commonwealth Club of California since 1935, and has also served as a member of various State and National commissions and organizations interested in government.

During the summer of 1936, Professor May was an official American delegate to the Sixth International Congress of Local Authorities at Berlin and Munich. He represented the University of California at the Centennial Celebration of the University of London and also at the Anglo-American Historical Conference in London, and attended the annual meeting of the British Institute of Public Administration at Oxford.

Professor May is a graduate of the Law School of Yale University and has done further graduate work at Columbia University. He engaged the practice of law for five years before entering the teaching field.

In the development of university programs of training for the public service, Professor May's work at the University of California has been outstanding, and he has been nationally recognized as a leader in this important field.

(Copied from Who's Who in America 1936-1937)

MAY, Samuel Chester, prof. polit. science; b. Portland, Ore., Dec. 7, 1887; s. Emanuel and Amelia (Selling) M.; Student Yale, 1908-10; LL.B., Yale University Law Sch., 1912; M.A., Columbia University, 1920; m. Eleanor Ownsworth Parkin, February 19, 1913 (died May 30, 1935); children--Randolph Parkin, Kenneth Ownsworth. In practice of law, Portland, 1913-17; instr. in polit. science, Dartmouth, 1920-21; asst. prof. polit. science, U. of Calif., 1921-25, asso. prof., 1925-30, prof. since 1930, also dir. Bur. of Pub. Administration since 1930. Served as sd lt., U.S.A., 1918. Mem. City Council, Berkeley, Calif., 1923-25; mem. com. on cost of crime, Nat. Commn. on Law Observance; consultant Calif. City Mgrs. Assn., Calif. Conf. on City Planning; U.S. del. to Union of Cities, Paris, France, 1925; U.S. del. to Internat. Congress of Local Authorities, London, 1932, Berlin, 1934, 36; U.S. del. Internat. Inst. Administrative Sciences, Warsaw, 1936; trustee Berkeley Library; member California Commn. on Local Home Rule; mem. Calif. Crime Problem Advisory Com.; dir. research, Commonwealth Club of Califo, since 1925. Mem. Am. Acad. Polit. and Social Science, Am. Polit. Science Assn., Calif. Acad. Science, Nat. Municipal League (dir.), Social Science Research Council (mem. Com. on pub administration 1928-29), Internat. City Mgrs. Assn. (mem. Research com.), English-Speaking Union of U.S., Alpha Kappa Lambda, Pi Sigma Alpha; hon. mem. Inst. Pub. Administration (Great Britain); membre titulaire Institut Internat. des Sciences Administratives. Mason (32'). Clubs: Kiwanis, Commonwealth, Faculty, Sierra, Bohemian. Contbg. editor Public Management. Contbr. to Nat. Municipal Review, Am. Polit. Science Rev., etc.

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May

THE WASHINGTON OFFICE
730 JACKSON PLACE N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Telephone NAtional 3230

March 23, 1937

LOUIS BROWNLOW, *Director*

Dear Mr. Rogers:

May I recall to your mind the substance of the conversation we had in Washington the other day concerning Mr. Kenneth May of the University of California?

I have known Mr. May since 1932 and while I have not seen him very frequently I have kept in touch with him by correspondence. I consider him one of the ablest young men in the country.

His primary interest, as you know, is in mathematics and statistical work and I feel certain that the opportunity now offered to take this four-year course in Russia is an ideal one for him.

If you should decide to select him I hope that you will let me know as in that event I would like to have him come to the office of Public Administration Clearing House in Chicago and spend at least three or four weeks there with the several organizations of public administrators in our group. I would particularly like him to work in the office of the American Society of Planning Officials and become familiar with the work we are trying to do. Then, if it meets with your approval, I would like to make an arrangement with him so that while he is in Russia he could write us regularly.

I have a feeling that after his return from Russia that the combination of an exceptional opportunity and an exceptional young man will result in producing for us in the United States a qualified person for whom there will be many opportunities in the planning and statistical field.

Yours very truly

Louis Brownlow
LOUIS BROWNLOW

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New Yor, New York

March 25th, 1937.

Dear Mr. May:

While in Washington on Monday I let Louis Brownlow read your letter to me and the letter Professor Evans sent me in regard to you. Brownlow was very enthusiastic about you and about the Russian opportunity. In a letter just received he confirms what he then said and adds:

"If you should decide to select him I hope that you will let me know as in that event I would like to have him come to the office of Public Administration Clearing House in Chicago and spend at least three or four weeks there with the several organizations of public administrators in our group. I would particularly like him to work in the office of the American Society of Planning Officials and become familiar with the work we are trying to do. Then, if it meets with your approval, I would like to make an arrangement with him so that while he is in Russia he could write us regularly.

I have a feeling that after his return from Russia that the combination of an exceptional opportunity and an exceptional young man will result in producing for us in the United States a qualified person for whom there will be many opportunities in the planning and statistical field."

Professor Charles E. Merriam of the University of Chicago and of President Roosevelt's planning commission was present when I talked to Brownlow and offered to be of service.

Professor Harper, head of the Russian Department at the University of Chicago, and I spent a couple of hours Sunday morning with Mr. Constantine Oumansky, Counselor of the U.S.S.R. Embassy. He agreed to write Moscow to urge that formal consent be given to your attending the school there. He thought that five or six weeks might elapse before a reply was received, as several people would have to be consulted.

A quarterly meeting of the trustees of this Institute is scheduled for the second Tuesday in April. I have, however, communicated with several of the trustees already. In Washington, I talked with Harold G. Moulton and Victor Clark. I sent a copy of your letter with my comments to John Nicholas Brown, who was then in Tucson, Arizona, and to G. R. Parkin, Montreal. Next week I am to see Henry Allen Moe and Lawrason Riggs, Jr. here and Charles F. Axelson in Chicago. President Bowman of Johns Hopkins I shall see either here or in Baltimore.

WSR/fc

Cordial greetings,

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

1909 Walnut Street
Berkeley, California
March 31, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I was glad to receive your letter of March 25 upon arriving home from a very pleasant stay at Palm Springs. Needless to say I enjoyed meeting Mr. and Mrs. Crane and Miss Powell. Mrs. Frances Crane and her daughter-in-law were there also, and on Monday I motored to Altedena with the former and met Mrs. Crane-Gartz and her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholas Brown arrived in Palm Springs Sunday nite, but since I had to leave the next morning we were not able to do more than mention the Institute.

You will find my expense account for the trip on the attached sheet.

As you know I shall be busy with work for the M.A. until May 15. Professor Evans suggests that I then take the "preliminaries" for the Ph.D., so that I can get the degree simply upon presentation of a thesis at some later time. The University of California is offering an intensive special course in Russian this summer. It lasts ten weeks ending August 27, and is one way in which the language problem could be solved.

I am very glad to hear how well things are progressing. My father was especially pleased with Mr. Brownlow's suggestion. They have worked together on several occasions.

Cordially yours,



Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

April 22nd, 1937.

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mr. May:

At the quarterly meeting of the Trustees of this Institute, held here Tuesday evening, I was authorized to enter into an arrangement with you, if we can work out a mutually acceptable program. As soon as I hear from the Soviet Embassy I will communicate with you again. A reply to the Embassy's letter to Moscow should be received within the next week or two.

Mr. George Antonius, the Institute's representative in the Arabic speaking countries is here. I hope it will prove possible to work out a meeting between you and him.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/fc

May 4th, 1937.

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mr. May:

A day or so ago I was informed by the Soviet Embassy that no word had been received as yet from Moscow in regard to you.

If you happen to know Professor Olson, anthropology, please ask him if he received a letter I addressed to him several weeks ago.

Yesterday's mail brought a letter from Dean Dickinson of the Law School in which he expressed his appreciation of Hazard's letters.

Yours sincerely,

WSR/fc

May 25, 1937

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mr. May:

Yesterday at the Soviet Embassy I had a talk with Mr. Oumansky, the Counselor, who said that he had not as yet heard from Moscow in regard to you, but that he knew of no reason why the permission asked should not be granted. I am today formally in writing requesting Mr. Oumansky to cable Moscow.

Yesterday I sent a second cable to John Crane, who is now in Moscow, asking that he talk with Mr. Neymann, the official in the Foreign Office having direct charge of Russian-American relations.

I feel confident that everything will work out satisfactorily, but Moscow certainly, in this instance at least, is exasperatingly slow.

Did you receive my letter to you of May 4th?

Yours sincerely,

WSR/fc

1909 Walnut St.
Berkeley, California
May 27, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Your letter of May 25 is most welcome. The uncertainty would be more annoying if I were not so busy with qualifying examinations for the Ph. D. However, I am glad that you are pressing the matter.

I received your letter of May 4 just at the beginning of examinations. However, I did run across Professor Olson who said that he had received your letter.

Thank you for John Hazard's letters. I find them very interesting.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth May", is written over a faint, circular dotted line.

June 9th, 1937.

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mr. May:

In view of the uncertainties in regard to how much time and money will be necessary to enable you to carry on in Russia and elsewhere your proposed study of economic planning, and in regard to the numerous other factors involved in the undertaking, it does not seem feasible at present to define formally a relationship between you and the Institute. In any event it is understood, of course, that the Institute assumes no responsibility for your health or safety while engaged in your study or while travelling.

Under the circumstances my suggestion is that you begin your study of Russian, plan to go to Russia late in the summer, keep when abroad rather detailed accounts for awhile, and prepare yourself to submit, a year hence, a review of your work and a program outlining proposed future activities and setting forth an estimate of likely cost. Meantime the Institute will provide you funds as needed to cover your actual expenses, it being estimated that somewhere in the neighborhood of two hundred dollars a month will probably prove ample. Shortly after your arrival in Moscow you will notify this office as to funds needed currently and as to what in your judgment is the best way of transmitting them to you.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

WSR/fo

Director.

June 9th, 1937.

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Kenneth:

If the enclosed letter meets with your approval, please initial the carbon and return it to me. Enclosed also is a check for \$250. Early in July please let me know how much you will need for travel to New York and for other immediate purposes.

In regard to the subject of economic planning, it seems to me that work in that field must include consideration of the sciences and technologies. Here Wiedemann may perhaps have something to contribute.

Yours cordially,

WSR/fc
encls.

June 10, 1937

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Kenneth:

Professor Kerner of the University of California is here in the office. He is very enthusiastic about a graduate student named Rentz who knows Arabic and is planning to take the summer course in Russian. If convenient, please in due time get acquainted with Rentz and let me know what your impressions are.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/fc

*Kerner also enthuses over
a Raymond Fisher.*

file

1909 Walnut Street
Berkeley, California
June 14, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Your letter of June 9 is entirely satisfactory. The signed carbon is enclosed.

As yet I have hardly said "Thank you" to you and to the Institute for the opportunities you are opening to me. I still cannot find words to do so adequately. Instead I hope to show my appreciation by making full use of the advantages your generosity makes possible.

After our conversation about Wiedemann I am looking forward to knowing him. In due time I shall report on Rentz and Fisher.

The check for \$250 received also. Are you expecting me to stay here until the end of the Russian Seminar on August 28 or to come to New York sooner?

Cordial greetings,

Kenneth May

file

June 18th, 1937

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Kenneth:

Returning here today after an absence of several days I find your letter of June 14th. Also a letter from Oumansky in which he says he will be in New York in the near future and wants to see me then.

The only ^{*assurance*} assurance I can now make to your inquiry is that at present I know of no reason why you should not continue on until the end of the Russian seminar.

Please send me every week or ten days a letter - one or two typewritten pages - to let me know how your work is getting on and about what you are thinking. Unless you mark a letter "personal" I will feel free to send copies to Trustees of the Institute if I think they would be interested.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/fc

FAST

DIRECT



RCA



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To secure prompt action on inquiries, this original RADIOGRAM should be presented at the office of R.C.A. COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. In telephone inquiries quote the number preceding the place of origin.

June 25th, 1937.

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Kenneth:

A number of people have spoken to me about Norman Hanwell as a possibility for Institute work in the Far East. When I was in California during the winter I missed him having been given a Los Angeles address at a time when he was living in the International House, Berkeley. When I was there early this month he did not occur to me.

If Hanwell is still about, I would appreciate it if you and Wiedemann got acquainted with him and let me have your impressions.

Mr. Charles R. Crane and John Hazard are due here Monday on the Normandie. When does your father reach here?

Cordial greetings,

WSR/bd

Berkeley
June 25, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Several thousand people are crowded against the long guard rail facing the landing field. Many of them are scanning the sky, but most are conversing or idly watching various planes being moved about. Suddenly, all attention! Everyone watches as a large plane swings slowly around into the wind, but it goes by to stop in front of the passenger depot. Many cameras have clicked in vain. A few moments later another similar plane drops down very close to the crowd, wheels about and comes in front of the crowd. The newspaper men are so much in the way that nothing can be seen of the "Heroes of the Soviet Union" for whom everyone has been waiting in the foggy dusk.

As they come forward and mount a flag bedecked stand a loud cheer goes up. The crowd, heretofore quietly obedient to the admonition to "hold your positions", now surges around and over the fence, surrounds the stand and demands the roses which have been presented to the heroes. Obliging they toss them to the many eager hands raised from the sea of laughing faces. One woman holds up her baby to be kissed. Finally the party descends from the stand and starts away. They are followed by the strains of the "International".

Russia? No, merely the Oakland airport. The crowd was there to see the three Russian flyers who had just completed their flight from Moscow to Portland. As for the "International", few even noticed the little delegation who faintly but bravely sang it with upraised fists. **

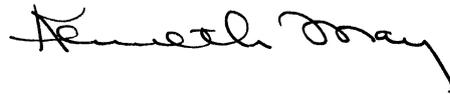
This was last Monday evening. Wiedemann and I had met that afternoon in the Russian Seminar, and to see the Soviet flyers in was a good excuse for a chat. Afterwards we had supper in Oakland and talked of mathematics, philosophy, college days, and plans for next year. Since then Russian has been all in all until today.

** These paragraphs are hazarded as an experiment in descriptive writing, of which I have done very little.

The Russian Seminar is going very well. There are eleven in the elementary group. Both Professor Patrick and his assistant teach well and are leading the class at a brisk but not breath taking pace. Allready we have some vocabulary, the simplest rules of grammar, and more important, no discomfort in the presence of the language written or spoken.

If in the next weeks I were to follow your request to write what I am thinking, these letters would be very little but a stream of Russian words. Instead I shall try to make them tell what I am not thinking about, or perhaps what I think about in odd moments.

Cordial greetings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth Gray". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Cordial greetings,".

Berkeley, California
July 2, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This week makes the last one seem very leisurely indeed. We have done nine lessons in the grammar and in addition the complete declension of nouns. Yesterday we began work in our reader. It's a good thing that Monday is a vacation, and you may be sure that we are making good use of it.

Wiedemann and I are spending the weekend in Yosemite. We shall drive up tomorrow morning, eager for a rest but taking along our books as reminders to return. Tonight I am going to see Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne in "Amphitryon 38".

In your last letter, you asked about Norman Hanwell. Enquiry at International House elicited that his forwarding address is 732 So. Mansfield Ave., Los Angeles. He was staying at the International House this last year, but left soon after the end of the spring semester.

In a previous letter you asked about Mr. Rentz and a Raymond Fisher. The former is in our beginning class. Clean-cut, slow-speaking, and usually smiling, he is very attractive personally and does well in class. These are first impressions.

As for Mr. Fisher, I met him several years ago when he was leading a round table on the Shanghai incident at a Student Institute of Pacific Relations conference. By chance, we met again the other night at the house of a mutual friend and again the next day at a picnic. My impression, concurred in by others who know him better, is that, leaving aside his undoubted ability in his field, he is rather colorless and lacking in drive.

Probably my father got in touch with you soon after you wrote last. He is now on his way home. Please pay my respects to Mr. Crane. I am looking forward to meeting John Hazard.

Cordial Greetings,

Kenneth May

(FINANCIAL)

1901 Walnut Street
Berkeley, California
July 10, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The trip to Yosemite was a welcome change. While in the Valley we were well taken care of by Ansel Adams and his wife. He is one of the best of the school of "realistic", "anti-pictorial", or "f.64" photographers. He suspects that one of his books is being used in the U.S.S.R. as a manual, and asked me to find out what I could about photography there.

On a separate sheet you will find a report of expenditures and a proposed budget for the next two months. Expenditures, actual and proposed, are rather high for clothing and equipment, but except for a few purchases in England there should be no further exceptional expenses of this kind. I shall cheerfully cut down if you feel any items are too large. I suggest maintaining the present balance of \$36 as a "cushion".

The Russian Section has now settled down to a steady grind. I plan to work hard in it until near the last and then to devote my time to preparing for Ph.D. preliminaries. This will damage my grade in the Russian much more than my knowledge of the language.

Father arrived home a few days ago. I was sorry to hear that he had not seen you. He was in New York only two days and did not find the time, although he had planned to do so.

Greetings and best wishes for the summer.

Renard May

P.S. your note of July 8 just arrived.

Airmail.

July 14th, 1937.

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Kenneth:

Enclosed is check for \$350. as suggested in your letter of July 10th. Let me take this occasion to urge you to let Mr. Brodie or me know of your financial needs as far in advance as possible. Institute checks require two signatures and it is sometimes, especially during the summer, difficult to locate two people who are authorized to sign. Furthermore, it is not desirable to travel on too narrow a margin. The Institute wants you always to have some money on hand.

Please tell your father I am sorry not to have had a glimpse of him. Hope for better luck next time.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/fc
encls.

Personal

Berkeley, California
July 18, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The check for \$350 arrived Friday. It should be ample until my arrival in New York.

Thank you for the Russian catalogues through which I am beginning to cut my way.

Wiedemann and I have talked over our plans with the following tentative results: Since he wishes to spend some time with his family before leaving, and I wish to visit relatives and friends in England, it would be inconvenient to try to cross the Atlantic together. I plan to take my Ph.D. examination the last week in August, leave Berkeley about September 1, and catch a five-day boat from New York on the 11th. (Ile de France) or on the 15th. (Normandie). This would allow me about a fortnight in England before meeting Wiedemann about October 1. We have in mind proceeding from England by boat about October 7. We feel that it would be just as well to spend the first few months in informal adjustment even though it may be possible to arrive in Moscow in time for the beginnings of whatever terms are involved. When I hear your opinion of this plan, I shall be able to make out a budget for the months of September and October.

The last week has been seasoned with a few things not connected with the seminar. On Tuesday we heard an illustrated lecture on the Russian Theatre by Alexander Kaun. Yesterday, after applying for a passport, John Dyer-Bennet (my room-mate) and I joined another friend to see "The Last Nite", an exciting but not a great Soviet film. As relaxation from Russian, I have been reading "Government Statistics" (Social Science Research Council, Bulletin 26, April 1937) and the Webb's "Soviet Communism".

Cordial Greetings

Kenneth Gray

247.
July 24, 1937.

Dear Kenneth:

This is in reply to your letter of July 18th.

The general plan outlined in your letter meets with approval. It is desirable that you spend at least one day in Chicago to meet Professor Samuel N. Harper and Charles Axelson, who is a trustee of the University of Chicago and also of this Institute. Then it is rather essential that you have a week or ten days here to meet various people in your type of work and in this organization. *interested*

With the program outlined you will not be in Russia in time to enter one of the Institutes, for they usually open about the first of September. In any event it is doubtful whether you would be permitted to do so. The request I sent to Moscow in your behalf reached there unfortunately at a time of crisis and tension. Both John Crane and John Hazard talked with Neymann, who is in charge of Soviet relations with Great Britain and the United States. He, as usual, was found to be friendly and willing to be helpful, but the decision rested with the Department of the Interior, which was jittery and disposed to look askance at all foreigners. In Washington the other day Hazard talked with Oumansky, who promised to write me, but he has not done so. This is what I expected, as he is probably unwilling to put on paper that he is favorable to your studying in Moscow but that the Department of the Interior, owing to present conditions, is averse to granting the necessary permission.

Unless war comes things will quiet down in time and I have no doubt that it will then be possible to make the necessary arrangements. Meanwhile, however, I suggest (1) that you and Wiedemann plan so as to be in Moscow for two or three weeks in October as tourists; Hazard will be there and will introduce you to the proper people; you can determine on the spot what the immediate prospects are; and (2) that you in due time determine where, if the Russian thing is not at the moment feasible, you can best continue with your studies, including Russian, of course. Professor Evans should be consulted.

For some time I have been trying to have a talk with Louis Brownlow, but he has been seriously ill. Professor Charles E. Merriam, who is keeping a friendly eye on Brownlow's organization, promised to be here Thursday, but for some reason or other failed to appear.

You just keep on going. Opportunities will arise and it is our business - yours and mine - to take advantage of them as they occur.

Cordial greetings.

1 Sent to Berkeley

Berkeley, California
July 28, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Wiedemann and I have talked over our plans in the light of your letters of the 25th. Of course I am disappointed at the delay in getting to work in Russia. However, there are plenty of other things to do which would be profitable in themselves and appropriate to the major purpose.

A day or so after last writing you, I had a talk with Stacy May of the Rockefeller Foundation, who was passing through Berkeley. He urged that I take time to inspect the T.V.A. while in the East. I understand that Louis Brownlow is expecting me to spend several days in Chicago, although I have not written him because of his illness. In order to allow sufficient time in New York it seems advisable to put off sailing until the 18th. or possibly the 22nd., although on the later date the boats will be crowded with Legionnaires on their way to a convention in Paris. Father recommends very highly the Britannic which sails on the 18th. Wiedemann and I plan to leave London October 6 for Leningrad via Gothenburg, Stockholm, and Helsingfors.

On a separate sheet is an estimate of financial needs. Travel estimates are based on the following: Tourist on very large boats, Cabin or First Class on smaller boats; by rail--Third Class in England and U.S.S.R., Second Class elsewhere. Exclusive of transportation, daily expenses are calculated on a basis of \$6 per day to include everything except exceptional expenditures on clothing and equipment. Is this about what is expected?

This week, instead of grammar and reading, we are having lectures entirely in Russian. It is encouraging to find that one gets the ideas if not all the words. Last Wednesday I heard a lecture on current affairs in Poland by Claus Mehnart, visiting the U.C. summer session, former German correspondent in Moscow. He is rather difficult to make out--said to be a fascist, able to move freely in and out of Germany, and yet openly critical of the Nazis and of Hitler personally, apparently objective in his attitude toward the Soviets. However, whatever his motives are he gave a great deal of interesting factual data; and if he is a propagandist, he is a very subtle one.

Cordial greetings,

Kenneth Gray

P.S. I am enclosing two prints of pictures taken in Yosemite. They would show up better in enlargements of course. Would you like proofs sent of pictures taken in the future (the best ones)?

August 4th, 1937

Mr. Kenneth May,
1909 Walnut Street,
Berkeley, California.

Dear Kenneth:

This is in reply to your letter of July 28th.

For years steamship and Russian travel arrangements for Harper, Hazard and others of this organization have been made through the Open Road which operates in close, friendly relationship with Intourist. One reason we do this is because the Open Road keeps a representative in Moscow, Habicht, who has proved to be extremely helpful. Among other things he knows many influential people and goes out of his way to arrange appointments. He and Hazard have become rather close friends. I have suggested to the Open Road that it communicate with you and Wiedemann. It is our practice to pay Open Road directly.

In view of the above I am uncertain whether or not you will need additional funds before reaching New York. If so, please let me know.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/fc

Berkeley, California
August 10, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for your letter of August 4. The Open Road has already gotten in touch with me. The funds on hand are so nearly enough until I reach New York that it is not worth sending more, since I shall take along some cash of my own.

Russian is progressing well. We are almost finished with the grammar. With a little reading on the way over, it will certainly be possible to get along and perhaps to express a few abstract ideas. The two classes joined last week in a picnic of which you will find several pictures enclosed. The prints are rather poor--the penalty of not doing one's own work.

Gradually there is collecting quite a pile of letters of introduction from friends, colleagues, and organizations. It has been suggested that I take along an extra trunk for them, but this is very much of an exaggeration.

Last Wednesday evening Claus Mehnart gave a talk in Wheeler Hall on the "Russo-Japanese Line-Up in the Far East" a very pertinent topic on that day, although the talk had not been scheduled with that in mind. Mostly a recital of facts concerning the superficial historical events leading up to the recent incidents, the speech did reveal some points of view. The lecturer referred to Russia and Japan as the "two imperialisms now facing one another", treating Mongolia and Manchukuo as conquered provinces of the two powers. He described the ~~recent~~ Russian withdrawal after the Amur incident as an indication and result of the recent executions which he said have left Russia a "largely disorganized country for the time being".

I have read enough of the Russian catalogue to know that such a program just suits my needs.

Cordial greetings,

Kenneth May

file

1909 Walnut Street
Berkeley, California
August 22, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The delay in writing has been caused partly by being busy and partly by the resulting lack of news. Although the Russian seminar is not yet over, I have been neglecting it for the study of Galois Theory of Equations, upon which I will be examined orally next Thursday.

Like any branch of mathematics, Galois Theory requires a great deal of "pick and shovel work" before one can understand even the beginnings. But once the fundamental concepts, theorems, and manipulations have been grasped--never a very interesting task, since understanding the reason for it requires its completion--the great theory stands out simple and clear. By means of it are brought together the theories of Equations, Groups, and Fields. It is breath-taking to see how perfectly they fit together, each helping to clarify the others. It is most interesting to compare the original work of Galois with the modern presentation. Considerable formalization and simplification have occurred, but the ideas are all contained in the fragmentary works of this young Frenchman killed in a duel at the age of 21 in 1832. It almost makes one cry to think that his contemporaries rejected his work and rebuffed him at every turn. What a tragedy that a man who might have contributed so much more was forced to scribble hastily in the margin of one of his manuscripts (presumably on the eve of his death):

"Il y a quelque chose à compléter dans cette démonstration. Je n'ai pas le temps."

Last week I had lunch with Irving Stone, who asked me to see whether his "Lust for Life" had been printed in Russian translation. He is now working on a biography of Jack London, which should prove most interesting.

Cordial Greetings,

Kleinman

Berkeley, California
August 27, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

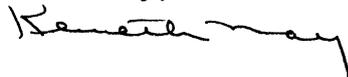
Every thing is completed here, and I am leaving for Chicago tonight. Beginning Monday, my address there will be Hotel Stevens. I am of course planning to call on Prof. Harper and Mr. Axelson. I have written Louis Brownlow, but understand that he is not yet back on the job. I shall also see Prof. Merriam if he is in Chicago. Are there others upon whom you would like me to call?

In order to see T.V.A. I have bought my ticket through Knoxville and thence to New York via Washington, where my father has suggested several people to see. Have you any suggestions in Washington?

Yesterday I passed my Ph.D. preliminaries, possibly because the committee was too bored and sleepy at the end of my talk to make any objections. Wiedemann and I have agreed on an itinerary with Open Road. I have had a chat with Evans on possible places of study for this year, and he has given me letters to mathematicians and mathematical economists in England and France.

It's great to be getting started!

Cordially,



Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Washington, D.C.
September 5, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This is to let you know the events of the last week.

Arriving in Chicago last Monday morning, I found most of the people connected with Mr. Brownlow's organization out of town. However, there was a letter waiting for me from Mr. Lepawsky, Brownlow's assistant. On Tuesday he showed me around P.A.C.H. and introduced me to Blucher (American Soc. of Planning Officials), Woodbury (National Association of Housing Officials), Belsley (Civil Service Assembly), and Chatters (Municipal Finance Officers Association). I had met the last two on previous occasions. While inspecting their reference library I ran into Beard's son, who was revising one of his father's text-books.

That evening I had dinner with Mr. Axelson who was suffering from hay fever. This made it necessary to keep to air conditioned rooms which was no hardship. It was terrifically hot and very humid.

The next day Professor Harper had me out to lunch at his house. We chatted over my plans and he gave me numerous hints as to what to do and what to avoid. Dr. Carleton R. Ball of T.V.A. (Secretary of the Coordinating Committee for T.V.A., U.S.D.A., and the land grant colleges) had written me that T.V.A. was on a five day week. Since he suggested visiting both Muscle Shoals and Norris Dam, and since I had made the necessary contacts in Chicago, it seemed advisable to move on at once.

Travelling ^dWednesday and Thursday nights, and handicapped by late trains I inspected the plant and dam at Muscle Shoals on Thursday and had interviews with Miller, the plant superintendent, and Scheppe, the director of information. The next day in Knoxville Mr. Fippin of the Agricultural Division, to whom Mr. Ball had written, introduced me to the various division heads, particularly in the planning section. The whole day was devoted to asking questions and listening to explanations of the various phases of T.V.A. The next morning Mr. Fippin drove me out to Norris Dam, Norris Town, and the Big Ridge Park.

Of course it is ridiculous to try to get a picture of such a project in two or three hectic days. Nevertheless because of some preparatory reading and the kindness and generosity of my guides, it has been possible to bring away a good general view and some interesting specific information.

I am staying with Mr. Carleton R. Ball, 3814 Jocelyn st.

Cordial greetings,
R.M.B.

KM...WSR...1 (Yearly Report)

London, England
September 27, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The following is a report of my activities since June 9 of this year when my connection with the Institute appears to have begun:

On June 21 there began the Russian Seminar given under the auspices of the University of California and the Institute of Pacific Relations. At your suggestion I enrolled in this and completed it substantially, although I did not attend the last two weeks of the ten weeks period. Instead I studied for my preliminary examination for the Ph.D. which I passed on August 26. The subject for the examination was "Galois Theory of Equations". The examination leaves only the theses to be completed for the Ph.D. in Mathematics.

On August 27 I left Berkeley for Chicago where I met Charles F. Axelson and Samuel N. Harper. After visiting the T.V.A. properties and meeting some of the personnel at Sheffield, Ala. (Wilson Dam) and Knoxville (Norris Dam), I arrived in Washington, D.C. on September 5. While there I met Harold Moulton and had an interview with Constantine Oumansky at the Soviet Embassy. During the next few days in New York, I met John Crane, Edward Allen Moe, and Lawrason Riggs, Jr. I also saw Charles R. Crane again. (I had met him earlier in the year at Palm Springs. At the same time I had met John Nicholas Brown.) In Montreal I met G.R. Parkin.

On September 18 I sailed for England en route the U.S.S.R. During the above period I had, of course, carried on reading and study of Russian.

Faithfully yours,

Kenneth May

P.S.(Personal) I just had a very pleasant interview with George Antonius. He made some helpful suggestions, among which I think the best was not to load myself down with contacts before going into the U.S.S.R. Hence I am simply going to investigate possibilities at University of London and Cambridge. Wiedeman just walked in the door of my room straight from the boat. Here also is Bruce Waybur--Rhodes Scholar. Cordial greetings from Howard and me.

Riggs

Enclosed also, is mailing list.

file May

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
BERKELEY

September 28, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers, Director
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

May I express my very great appreciation for your kindness in sending a telegram to notify me that Kenneth had arrived safely at Southampton. I had sent a good-luck cablegram to him on Saturday, and am hoping that he had time during the voyage to write me in some detail concerning his experiences since he left Berkeley. He has written quite frequently but the notes have been extremely short.

I hope that the arrangements which have been made with Kenneth are working out satisfactorily from your point of view. The real opportunity you have provided him deserves the enthusiastic appreciation which he sincerely feels, and which I share. I am very proud and happy about his progress - although it takes him so far from Berkeley.

I am planning to spend my summer vacation in Europe with Kenneth, if that fits in with his plans. (The regular University session closes in May and opens again after the middle of August.) I may extend the summer vacation into a sabbatical leave until January, 1938, if I can find some one to take my place in the Bureau of Public Administration and to handle my courses in the Department of Political Science.

I had planned to spend some time in New York last summer and meant to call on you, but developments in Berkeley made it necessary for me to return immediately after my reunion in New Haven. I am planning to come East at Christmas time, however, to attend the American Political Science Association meeting in Philadelphia, and hope I shall be able to see you at that time.

Thanking you again for the telegram, and with real appreciation for the opportunities you are making available to Kenneth, I remain

Faithfully yours,

Samuel C. May
Samuel C. May
Director

SCM:LS

KM...WSR....2 (Report on Plans for Study in England)

London, England
October 5, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The last ten days have been spent in seeing people and making final purchases before leaving for the U.S.S.R. tomorrow. In London I saw relatives and had a very pleasant reunion with three school mates who are to be at Oxford this year. I spent several days in Oxford with Gordon Griffiths and his wife. Yesterday Howard and I visited Cambridge and investigated possibilities for study there. Today we had lunch with George Antonius and talked over our plans, and this afternoon made more definite enquiries following up our first explorations at the University of London.

It seems clear that the University of London is the best place at which to spend the next year provided I do not stay on in the Soviet Union. Although Russian may be obtained at Oxford or Cambridge, there is nothing to compare with what is offered at the University of London. At Cambridge there is only one person, Miss Elizabeth M. Hill, who did her work at London. The only thing in which Cambridge is superior as far as my interests go is mathematics. However, this loses its importance for the present since I shall not have much time to devote to new work in mathematics this year. The college life at Oxford and Cambridge is something to be considered, of course, but the short time of residence, the impossibility of getting rooms in college at this late date, and my age would destroy most of its values. London has also the important advantage of the availability of the theater, music, the British Museum, etc. It seems likely that it will be possible to run up to Cambridge and Oxford to attend particularly interesting lectures. Finally, I am anxious to live in a big city, away from the academic atmosphere which I have been breathing these last few years.

At the University of London there are three divisions in which I intend to study: the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College, and the London School of Economics and Political Science.

At the School of Slavonic Studies, there is a good selection of courses in the Russian language. We plan to take the "middle class" given by Mr. Turin. They were sure that a course would be available to suit our needs and that they could arrange for a tutor if we desired one.

At University College there are two departments interested in Statistics: Eugenics headed by R. A. Fisher and Statistics headed by E.S. Pearson. I talked to both of these men and they said that I could work with them when I returned, altho Fischer will be away from December to February. The two departments are very antagonistic

and there is some duplication in the courses given. It should be interesting to compare their approaches. The Registrar of the College said that I should apply for admittance whenever I returned and that there would be no difficulty.

At the London School of Economics there is a profusion of courses. E.C. Rhodes gives lectures on statistical methods and mathematical economics. In the third term (4) F.A. von Hayek gives a course on "Problems of a Collectivist Society" and E.F.M. Durbin one on "Economic Planning in Theory and Practice". Courses are offered by R.G.D. Allen in mathematical economics and by L. Robbins in economic theory. Just which of these I should like to attend it is impossible to say now. Enquiry elicited the assurance that I could without difficulty arrange whenever I arrived to take either certain courses or pay a general fee admitting me to all lectures.

Assuming that I return from the Soviet Union as planned, I shall begin Russian at once at the School of Slavonic Studies and Statistics at University College. I should also register at the L.S.E. to attend some of the above lectures.

The following are the objectives of this school years work as I see them: (Assuming I do not stay on in the Soviet Union)

1. Get Russian out of the way as far as formal school work is concerned. All else to be subordinated to this. (Sch. of Slav)
2. Increase my statistical training. (Univ Coll)
3. Read in the field of general planning and in Marxism, attending relevant lectures. (L.S.E.)
4. Read general literature, enjoy the theater and music, and get to know London and parts of England.

Cordial greetings to all.

Kenneth May

~~(A)~~ The terms for all colleges of the University of London ⁽¹¹⁾ are as follows: Michaelmas, Oct. 7-Dec. 16; Lent, Jan 11-March 22; Summer, April 26-June 28. Since I shall not be working for a degree for the present, it is only necessary to be admitted to each college in order to work at the university. I am sending for copies of my academic record although it will apparently not be necessary.

omit

KM....WSR....3... (List A + this only to Paul Kusnitz, 414 E. 204 st, NYC)

En route England - U.S.S.R.
October 9, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Having been in London several times before, I did not expect to get any new impressions from such a short and busy visit. I would have described London as characterized by comfortable dirtiness, a big city with service substituted for efficiency, designed for the gentleman. To that impression of former visits has been added one of a veneer of Americanism. Superimposed on old, grimy buildings are tremendous, ugly neon signs. Precariously suspended "lifts" are given a modernistic appearance. Instead of the six inch headlines of our newspapers, the hawkers carry three foot posters screaming in crimson print: "WHY THE KING LAUGHED" or "12 KILLED TO SAVE ONE".

Many of the faults traditionally ascribed to America by the English stare one in the face in London. It is not even true to say that life is much more leisurely in London than in New York. The few who can afford the luxury may live more smoothly than we do, but the majority are dashing about as quickly as they can. The buses travel about at a terrific rate paying no attention whatever to the pedestrian who must jump for his life in the manner of his American cousin. As for the classic complaint that we misuse the English language, it is only necessary to say that in England every class difference brings a change of dialect, the resulting distortions of the King's English being often completely incomprehensible even to an Englishman.

Perhaps this "knocking" mood was caused by the London murk, for as the train for Oxford left the city my heart leapt as it had when we sighted the the green fields and grey stone fences of Ireland and later, the cool wooded shore of the Isle of Wight. The English countryside with its well kept, hedged in fields is certainly the most inviting I have seen. Oxford was mellow with age, but unfortunately gave also the impression of decay. In fact the dust from the buildings produced an atmosphere reminiscent of the New York subway. Cambridge was more attractive, probably a judgement prejudiced by previous acquaintance. In both places, if one forgets the superficial he can feel the richness of the centuries during which so much has been contemplated and some things accomplished.

It has been a long time since I have indulged in an exciting blood-and-thunder novel. Partly on this account* "The Making of a Hero" by Nicholas Ostrovsky made very pleasant reading on the transatlantic voyage. However, it contains much more than blood and thunder. (X)

Firstly the story is a strange and pathetic one of "courage and devotion, of idealism and hope long deferred". Beginning with Paul Korshagin being punished for a schoolboy's prank in a tsarist school, it describes his hardships as a young Ukrainian worker and the first impact of the revolution. Paul throws him-

self unreservedly into the revolutionary movement as a soldier, skilled craftsman, and leading party worker. In and out of his life float representatives of the revolution and counter-revolution, sweet faces of those who loved, and faces full of fear, hatred, or determination. We see them struggling and dying all around him and wonder how he survives in spite of wounds, disease, and exposure. Condemned to paralysis and blindness by a back injury he struggles desperately to find a place again and does so with the publication of his first novel.

The story is given a strange turn by the fact that Ostrovsky was likewise handicapped. The book is described on the jacket as "largely autobiographical", and yet it is hard to believe that a real person could experience all that is recounted. It is easier to view the book as a realistic panorama of the years of bitter struggle and sacrifice in the Ukraine, a composite picture of the intense work of the rank and file of the revolutionary leaders. As one reads of the death of Paul's comrades in battle, by firing squads, rape, or murder one gets some idea of the sacrifices of the unnamed heroes. Paul might just as well have been killed on any page.

The really remarkable thing about the book is that without losing touch with the individual nor the individual view it gives one a feeling for what is happening in the large. It is what the good novel should be, the best substitute for living through the situation. In the story are echos of "great" events, the acts that are recorded by historians, but they appear only as echos of the deeds of all the Paul Korshagins, of what is happening in every village and shop. Here are described the people who made the revolution, and the reader is impressed with the tremendous energy expended and the drain of the most capable human resources.

Novels of this type--and certainly Russia has produced greater ones than this--are of some importance in addition to amusement and propaganda. In modern times the planner, or anyone required to make large decisions, cannot experience his data. Relying on statistical evidence it becomes difficult to react in any but a formal way, and yet it is essential to make decisions based on some feel for the situation. The usefulness of the novel for this purpose depends, of course, on the sensitiveness of the author and the "typicalness" of the material, something which the reader must judge by his own experience including his more formal information.

Cordial greetings to all.

Kenneth May

~~(*)~~ ^{*} Nicholas Ostrovsky, "The Making of a Hero" transl. from the Russian by Alec Brown, New York, E.P. Dutton and Co., 1937.

KM...WSR...4. (List A)

Leningrad, U.S.S.R.
October 12, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

It was quite dark outside and in the taxi as we drove along from the harbour to the "Central Hotel" in Esbjerg. For the first time I felt on foreign soil, cut away from the past. This thought crossed our minds at the same moment, and with exclamations of pleasure we shook hands on it. The evening before at Harwich we had embarked on what proved to be a rather rough voyage and now we were on our way to the first real meal of the day. It was excellent and accompanied by good music. Possibly in our honour there were several American jazz songs.

The next morning found us in Copenhagen, where we took the advice of the Cunard representative to continue immediately to Stockholm. A chilly wind was blowing as the ferry left Copenhagen harbour for Malmo, but the sun shone kindly on us for the crossing before disappearing apparently forever. It is quite true that the boat trip was beautiful, that Malmo's canals were attractive, and that the afternoon's ride on the train was through fine forested farm lands dotted with lakes which reflected the setting sun. But all these were forgotten the next morning as I strolled across the bridges, along the canals, and through the passages of Stockholm.

The city is entrancingly beautiful, certainly one of the few man-made things comparable to high mountain scenery in simplicity, grace, and strength. Washed above by the clean northern air and below, by innumerable canals and bays it is as well seasoned looking as London but more modern than New York. Even the old buildings have a modern flavor, and the new are up to the minute in general style, conveniences, and appointments. In one of the large apartment stores called "PUB"--they make a point of the fact that Greta Garbo sold hats there--a beautiful tier of escalators is built along one wall. From the main floor one sees the heads and shoulders moving slowly along behind parallel balustrades--a simple pattern, but in excellent proportion and finished in plain glossy cream colored material. There is nothing to mar the general impression of civilization. The streetcars run silently and the ambulances have modulated musical sirens. The policeman looks like a fine gentleman in his long blue coat through the pocket of which peeps a sword hilt.

Later in the day we strolled through part of the residential district and one of the many parks. By chance we came upon the Engelbrekt Church. The exterior is a wonderful arrangement of heavy masses and the interior is based on a series of semi-parabolic arches sweeping overhead. The lack of ornamentation--apparently characteristic of Scandinavian architecture--allows the fine lines and balanced areas to be fully appreciated. It would be interesting to see the gothic form similarly treated.

As the boat for Abo left the harbour that evening and passed sheer modern apartment houses and actually ornamental factories interspersed with woodland, we agreed, and not for the first time that day, that Stockholm would be worth a longer visit.

Helsingfors was impressive for its modern architecture--particularly the great blocks of apartments and the Rex Theater, where we saw an almost incomprehensible but certainly over dramatic Finnish film--but after all it figured only as a last stop before Leningrad where we arrived last night.

Everything is pleasant and there have been no difficulties. Delectable as Smorgasborg is, I am glad to be eating more solid food, the quality and quantity of which cannot be complained of. We have a good guide and "ZEESE" limousine (One of the Russian-made equivalents of the Cadillac) to ourselves. The Hotel Astoria is old but comfortable. I shall write again when more interesting and important impressions have become expressible.

Cordially,

Kenneth May

P.S. Habicht has written us here making suggestions for sightseeing and enclosing copy of letters to VOKX here and in Moscow. I am visiting the Statistical Institute tomorrow. This morning we wired you "Cordial Greetings" which seemed the best way of expressing that all was well.

omit (Please add to list A: Mrs. A. Q. Dodgson
2 Lypiatt Terrace
Cheltenham, England.)

KM...WSR...5 A + this only to Paul Kusnitz, 414 E 204 st, N:Y.C.

Moscow, U.S.S.R.
October 20, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

First Impressions of the Soviet Union! Are they possible? It would be hard to say when they really came, but certainly not now. Childhood pictures of snow, boots, and cupolas. Later vague notions of masses in a revolutionary movement, violence, and "Moscow". Finally news reels of the Red Square and reading about the five year plans, the collectivization of agriculture, and the peace policy of the Soviet Union. No, there can be no naive impressions, but only those resulting from the impact of observation on preconception.

In Leningrad my dominant feeling was one of a tremendous mass of people struggling fiercely but without haste to improve their standard of living. On every hand there is evidence of the fruits of that struggle. Anyone can see the new buildings, new paved streets, fine new automobiles and streetcars, shops full of goods and purchasers, and plentiful supplies of food in the stores. Then there are parks and palaces of culture and rest, the crèches, hospitals, and schools. Nevertheless, to an American used to a high standard of efficiency and not favored with having seen pre-revolutionary Russia or even the Soviet Union a few years ago, the many shortcomings are painfully clear. Particularly striking is the poor quality of the clothing--drab and poorly made. Another weak spot is housing. The old houses inherited from tsarist times are of course terrible--though apparently no worse than our slums--but some of the new blocks have had to be built in such a hurry that they already are disintegrating. This illustrates the essential point that one must not judge the U.S.S.R. by the amount or quality at a given time, but rather by the rate of change. There is every indication that improvement is tremendous and continued.

Moscow presents such a mass of socialist construction that one notices less the sectors of society in which the Soviets have not yet caught up with the rest of the world. Where a few years ago stood old Russian wooden houses now stand great civic buildings, hotels, theatres, apartment blocks, houses of culture and rest, and schools. Blocks and blocks of houses are being demolished to make way for avenues which could accommodate several of the best in Los Angeles. Everywhere they seem to be tearing down the old or building the new.

Indicative of what is to come is the Metro. The whole world must bow to the citizens of Moscow who built this subway, and I say "the citizens of Moscow" advisedly. In addition to full time workers, there ^{were} tremendous numbers of volunteers--housewives, students, office workers, professors, and workmen on their days off--who did every sort of labor and came in such numbers that they had to take turns. The slogan was "All Moscow is building the subway". A young Komsomol showed us around as proudly as a king might display

his palace. It was his as much as his own apartment. Proudly he said: "No capitalist country could build such a subway, because it would not be profitable. Here it is built for us, and money is no object".

There are now fourteen stations each designed and executed in a different style and arrangement. Each is a masterpiece of comfort, grandeur, and efficiency. Lavish use has been made of marble and different varieties of tiles. Not only the platform; but the staircases (remining one of an opera house), the escalator shafts, ticket rooms, and above ground entrance buildings are built in unique designs to harmonize with each station. The long platforms adapt themselves well to parallel rows of columns and arched ceilings which present vistas as satisfying as a cathedral and more in keeping with the modern age.

Here the Soviets have caught and surpassed the rest of the world. Every detail is up to the minute and in addition, beautiful. For example the escalators are works of art--fine woods and restful lighting--as well as convenient aids to locomotion. The trains are simple but decorative, with comfortable seats, large windows, chromium fixtures, and no advertisements. A part of each train and platform is set aside for children with parents--reminiscent of our "Jim Crow" cars, but for a very different purpose. Best of all, the entire subway is kept clean and the trains run quietly and smoothly in comparison with those of New York, London, and Paris. What for us is a disagreeable necessity is here a place of rest and beauty. The thought of what this city will be like when everything is in keeping staggers the imagination.

Greetings to all,



P.S. (Personal) These last few days have definitely shaken me out of the usual mental track, and I feel that this letter reflects ~~the~~ this period when altogether too many impressions are still swirling around getting acquainted. I do hope you will write me a scorching letter in the near future.

KM...WSR...6 List A and B.

Moscow, U.S.S.R.
October 27, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Of all the things observable here, the most available and fascinating are the people themselves. One has only to step out the door of his hotel to find himself in a crowd of Russians of every age and position: laborers, clerks, peasants almost fresh from the country, old women with the characteristic shawl, well dressed stakonovites or administrators, students with brief cases, and children well wrapped in blankets in their mother's arms or toddling along in so much clothing that they look like little balls of wool and fur. The newcomer is likely to think that it is the rush hour, but soon learns that citizens not at work, there being two or three shifts daily, like nothing better than going somewhere. They fill the sidewalks, tax the transportation system to the limit, pack the stores with eager buyers, buy out every performance of cinema, opera, ballet, or drama, and stream through the museums and special exhibits. In summer, no doubt one would find the parks of culture and rest equally crowded and in winter, the Lenin hills swarming with skiers.

The best place of all to observe tight packed humanity is in one of the streetcars. The crowding of the transportation system is probably due largely to the tremendous and sudden growth of Moscow in the last few years and partly to the nature of the Russian people. Certainly, the facilities are good by our standards though not as well run as would be expected in America. The streetcars run at frequent intervals and each one contains three cars. There are also buses similar to our school buses and fine new trolley buses comparable to those being introduced in the United States. In addition there is the Metro, the second line of which will open on November 7, after which the third section will be pressed to completion. Nevertheless, the street cars literally bulge with passengers. People hang on the steps, and then others hang on to them and any other available hand or foot hold on the side of the car.

The first problem for the would be traveller is to establish himself on the rear platform of the second or third car, the first one being specially for mothers and children. At the next stop he will be able to get inside. There a lively discussion is going on with the purpose of readjusting positions somewhat in the order of destinations. With every stop everyone is pushed forward a few steps. After such an experience, partaking more of a jolly free for all than a nervous struggle, one can appreciate the Soviet cartoon showing an unfortunate passenger stuck in the middle of the car and shouting: "Citizens, I have just passed my stop for the third time".

The conductors seem all cast in the same mold. They are phlegmatically efficient women, heavily dressed to withstand the cold draughts at this time of the year and usually wearing the peasant shawl wrapped around their heads. Each one carries spools of tickets and a large leather change bag. Here it is up to the passenger to get his own ticket for the amount corresponding to the length of the journey--from ten to thirty kopecks. Not to do so brings the risk of discovery by the inspector who gets on now and then and fines offenders four roubles on the spot. In spite of the conductor's serious demeanor and her frequent admonitions prefixed by "Citizens....", she is human like the rest and may only growl good-naturedly at the little boy who tries to get a free ride by hiding on the front step.

The principal characteristics of the passengers and indeed of all Russians seem to be good humour, a liking for discussion, and the feeling that everything is their business. If a citizen doesn't approve of something he says so loudly enough for everyone to hear. No one hesitates to join the resulting discussion whether it be a question of the tone of voice of the conductor or the fact that the bus door squeaks. The Russians outdo the Americans in their willingness to enter into casual conversation with strangers. The modestly dressed tourist is accosted everywhere by Russians of all ages who make inquiries, remark on the weather, or start a discussion on the matter in hand, be it concert, opera, exhibit, or simply getting off the streetcar. When the foreigner betrays himself by his accent or inability to understand, his casual acquaintance becomes if anything more friendly and shifts the conversation to the difficulty of his language, the excellence of American technique, or the queerness of the American mind resulting from seeing too many wild-west cinemas.

No one could help liking these people!

Greetings to all,

Kenneth Day

P.S. Please add to List A : Mr. Donald Parkin, 1678 Grant St, Berkeley, Calif.

Mr. Norman Parkin, 29 Stratton rd, Merton Park, London SW 19, England.

Mr. Richard M. Leonard, 1918 Lakeshore Blvd Oakland, Calif. (from List B)

List B : Mr. Robert Bishop, % American Express, London, England.

Upon second thought it seems to me that number 5 might just as well go to list B as well as A if you think it is worth sending at all and if there are any copies left.

Also for list B: ~~Frank~~ Dr. M. E. Deutsch, 862 Arlington Ave, Berkeley, Calif.

Also for list ^B: Frank ~~Wilson~~ Wilson, 76 Rue de Sévres, Paris, France

Also, this letter only to: Howard Twining, 6160 Acacia St, Oakland, Calif.
 " " " " 2. Rawling Thomas, Longacre Box 97, Wedgetfield, S.C. U.S.A.
 (1455) 3. Margaret Wood, 6095 Romanly rd, Oakland, Calif.

Also for this letter only:

- v. Miss Suzanne Bocqueraz, 250 Perry st, Oakland, Calif.
- s. Miss Claire Busby, 144 Bellevue rd, Watertown, Mass.
6. Mr. F. W. Dresch, 36-a De Freville ave, Cambridge, England
2. Mr. Nathan Gilbert, 2603 Benvenue, Berkeley, California
8. ~~Mr. F. W.~~ Miss Elizabeth Kelsey, 1497 Le Roy ave, Berkeley, Calif.
9. Miss Margaret Rockwell, Mills College, California,
10. Mr. Dana Raymond, 860 Park Ave, New York City.

Excuse the messiness, miss Condon.

Moscow, U.S.B.R.
October 31, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

One of the easiest ways to get an insight into a man's character is to examine his library. The bookstores of Moscow indicate similarly what is going on in the minds of the people here, but they are a better index than those in other countries because of the tremendous volume of sales. They are also fascinating places to spend a few hours because of the variety and cheapness of the books and the crowds of buyers who swarm around the counters trying to get the new publications before they are out of print.

Stores for books, like all others, are scattered throughout the city, but on Gorki Street are concentrated many of the best and largest. For several blocks there is little else. Most prominent are the stores specializing in political literature. Here are displayed party publications, speeches of the leaders in a dozen formats, complete and selected works of the great Marxists, and translations of the best "bourgeois" writers such as Adam Smith. Just out and rapidly disappearing is "Twenty Years of Soviet Power, a Statistical Summary", a million copies of which are being sold at 1.25 roubles. Nearby is a store selling the publications of the Academy of Science. There are innumerable learned journals, reports of scientific expeditions, and works on every branch of science, both by soviet and foreign writers. One can pick up an "Outline of the History of the Heliocentric Doctrine in Russia" for 9 roubles, or a monumental report of the Pamirs Expedition of 1935 for 28. There are several shops piled high with textbooks at amazingly low prices, 3.75 roubles for one on the Theory of the Complex Variable. Childrens' books are on sale in a store for them only. A few doors away one finds the works of the great masters of Russian literature and the best foreign authors. Scattered along the street are the old book stores containing mostly pre-revolutionary publications. In spite of the demand for books which have almost immediately gone out of print, the people seem unwilling to sell post-war books.

At the top of the street is a large store containing all the varieties of new books mentioned above. In addition there is a department for music and another for sport, where one can buy a 200 page, well illustrated book on mountaineering technique for 2.5 roubles. In almost all stores one finds all sorts of books on subject connected with the technical aspects of socialist construction--engineering, shop problems, planning, accounting, administration. These sell in additions large enough to indicate that they are intended not for the leaders but for the rank and file. If the book hunter prefers some language other than Russian, he is likely to find what he wants at one of the International Book Stores. To complete the picture, there are the kiosks where

people line up to buy Pravda as it comes off the press. An additional feature at the moment are the special salesmen offering albums of phonographic records of recent speeches of Stalin and Molotov.

Converting the prices quoted above according to the exchange gives some idea of the cheapness of books here. A far better comparison is evident from the fact that the wages of a worker at the Fraser tool plant in Moscow run from 180 to 1200 roubles per month and those of a student at the engineering institute for heavy industry, from 180 to 300 roubles. No wonder editions are so big, and that the soviets can boast that the 150 special books issued in connection with the first elections under the new constitution are insufficient in spite of totalling over 80,000,000 copies.

One gets the impression that everyone in Russia is reading. There is nothing to correspond to our pulp and smooth-paper weeklies. Instead the Russian devours lengthy government reports, and technical manuals. On the trains everyone is reading, sleeping, or arguing. The passengers are as absorbed in textbooks on chemistry, party literature, or a translation of Sinclair Lewis as their New York cousins are in the tabloids. Everything is informative, for the Soviet citizen is either a student or a teacher, and he may be both.

Cordially,

KM

P.S. Enclosed is a revised list for mailing. John and Howard send regards. I am going to be sorry to leave in a few days.

KM...WSR...8...A,B,C

*Bevi per copy
and send to Swift
R*

Moscow, U.S.S.R.
November 8, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

At exactly ten o'clock, Voroshiloff, Marshal of the Soviet Union, rode out of the Spasky Gate at the south end of the Red Square and cantered briskly along between the tribunes and massed blocks of armed men. An instant before, the spectators had turned expectantly as the bells began to chime and now they clapped as he passed. The troops stood motionless and silent; they would greet their commander presently. For several hours they had been forming up--red army units with and without field kit, detachments from the navy, air force, and special divisions, and columns of veterans of the civil war with bayoneted rifles slung from their shoulders. At the far end of the square the commander began to greet each group. The celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the first proletarian revolution had begun.

"Demonstration" would be a better word than "celebration". Gaiety there was in the city both before and after, but this was a demonstration of the will and the might of the soviets to maintain the regime established twenty years ago. The cloudy day strengthened this impression, and the absence of any color but red in the decorations emphasized the singleness of purpose of those who stood on Lenin's tomb. Opposite them a great placard greeted the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and on each side of it were banners inscribed with "Workers of the World, Unite!" in half a dozen languages. International implications were even more strikingly expressed in a temporary monument built over the one standing in front of St. Basil's Cathedral. Six gigantic workers of different races and nations stood shoulder to shoulder in a circle, facing the world, and holding aloft six banners of revolution.

At the end of an address, the band struck up the International, and salutes boomed from behind the Kremlin walls. A deep singing roar swept up and down the massed fighters. At a single command they turned and began to file by in review. As the shock troops marched by with fixed bayonets and sub-machine guns at the ready, cheers and clapping came from the tribunes filled with leading workers. In the seemingly endless stream of military equipment which followed, some things were unforgettable: The cavalry troupe with horses tapering from white to dark grey--~~in fact, all~~ the cavalry ~~where~~ horses all looked like prize winners. The handsome women of the air force with heavy brown pistols contrasting with their blue uniforms. A motorcycle red cross unit with side cars for the wounded. The civilian cyclists in gaily colored jackets and caps. Wave upon wave of tanks from little amphibians to gliding fortresses. Most thrilling of all were the speed tanks which hurtled across the square and two almost equally fast turreted giants which swept by like battleships on review.

(Kenneth May)

MAILING LIST (Oct. 31, 1937 revised from Sept. 27, 1937)

List A.

1. Mr. Louis Brownlow
2. Mrs. A.A. Dodgson
2 Lypiatt Terrace
Cheltenham, England
3. Mr. John Dyer-Bennet
4. Prof. C.C. Evans
5. Mr. Farnham P. Griffiths
6. Mr. Gordon Griffiths
7. Prof. J.H. Hildebrand
8. Mr. Richard M. Leonard
1918 Lakeshore Blvd.
Oakland, Calif. (from list A.)
9. Mr. Randolph P. May
10. Prof. S.C. May
11. Mr. Stacy May
12. Miss Ruth McGovney
13. Miss Ann Meiklejohn
14. Prof. Charles A. Noble
15. Mr. Donald Parkin
1638 Grant St.
Berkeley, California
16. Mr. Norman Parkin
29 Stratton rd.
Merton Park, London SW19
17. Mrs. M. L. Sisson
18. Mr. Charles Thompson
19. Mr. Hobart Young

List C.

1. Mr. Heinz Bertelsman
%Institut Universitaire des
Haute Etudes Internationals,
Villa Bartoloni, Geneva
2. Miss Suzanne Bocqueraz
250 Perry St.
Oakland, Calif.
3. Mr. H. J. Bruman
%Dept. of Geography
University of California
4. Miss Claire Busby
144 Bellevue rd,
Watertown, Mass.
5. Mr. Jules Eichorn
2007 Berkeley way,
Berkeley, California
6. Miss Elizabeth Kelsey
1497 Le Roy Ave.
Berkeley, California
7. Mr. Stanley Mobre
2307 Banita Aven.
Fiedmont, California

List B.

- ✓ 1. Mr. Ansel E. Adams
Best's Studio, Yosemite Valley
Yosemite Nat'l Park, California
 - ✓ 2. Mr. Carleton R. Ball
3814 Jocelyn St.
Washington, D.C.
 - ✓ 3. Mr. Robert Bishop
%American Express
Haymarket, London
 - ✓ 4. Mr. Allan C. Blaisdell
 - ✓ 5. Dean M.E. Deutsch
862 Arlington Ave.
Berkeley, California
 - ✓ 6. Mr. Glen Dawson
 - ✓ 7. Mr. Francis P. Farquhar
 8. Mr. Nathan Gilbert
2603 Benvenue
Berkeley, California
 - ✓ 9. Mr. Elmer C. Goldsworthy
 - ✓ 10. Mr. Frank Kidner
 - ✓ 11. Mr. Harry Kingman
 - ✓ 12. Prof. H.D. Lasswell
 13. Mr. Frank Pestana,
2338 E. 22 St.
Oakland, Calif.
 - ✓ 14. Mr. Walter Radius
 - ✓ 15. Mr. Dana Raymond
860 Park Ave.
New York City
 - ✓ 16. Mr. Leo Rogin,
 - ✓ 17. Pres. Robert Gordon Sproul
 - ✓ 18. Miss Lucy Van Hoben Sels
Amistad, Vorden
Sacramento Co., California
 - ✓ 19. Mr. Frank Wilson
76 Rue de Sevres
Paris, France.
-
- ✓ 10. Miss Margaret Rockwell
Mills College, California
 - ✓ 19. Miss Helena Stellberg
1 Orchard Lane
Berkeley, California
 - ✓ 10. Mr. Howard Twining
6160 Acacia St.
Oakland, Calif.
 - ✓ 13. Miss Margaret Wood
6095 Romany Rd.
Oakland, Calif.

Now the citizens of Moscow began to come. Flowing in from the north they filled the square and moved by like molten lava. Above the parallel columns of drab figures rose massed banners and placards, revolutionary slogans, pictures of the triumphs of socialist construction, portraits of leaders, and caricatures of enemies. As ^{the marchers} they passed the tribune they waved and were greeted in return. Little children rode by on parents' shoulders. Some marchers shouted to comrades in the stands, sang, or responded to the slogans hurrahed over the microphone incessantly, but most trudged by as seriously as those in uniform. A great crowd of men, women, and children surging along out of step is even more impressive than an army.

When the Russians make an effort to be efficient, they do the thing well. All the military equipment, soldiers, and the entire population of Moscow passed through that square without a visible hitch and were diverted and dispersed so well that within an hour of the end of the demonstration the streets were swept and traffic was going as usual. Now the gay spirit of the previous days returned. In every street and square were lit up the red banners, slogans, pictures, and monuments. Below them surged the marchers of that day, celebrating their achievements and hopes, forgetting momentarily the struggles of the past and the difficulties to come.

Cordial greetings to all,

Kenneth May

KM...WSR...9...Report

Helsingfors, Finland
November 10, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We have just wired you "INSTRUCTIVE PLEASANT TRIP RETURNING LONDON, HOWKEN." The second word has been partly explained in previous letters. This one is intended to enlarge on the first, fourth, and fifth.

Upon arriving in Leningrad, I told the Intourist Bureau as a matter of course that I was interested in planning and statistics. They immediately suggested that I visit the planning institute, which was arranged with no apparent difficulty. I had a good interpreter, and the director and staff were very cordial, frank, and at ease. All my questions were answered, but I did not bring up the question of my studying there, because I expected to see more in Moscow. This institute ~~was~~ a four year training school for those having completed the ten years of elementary and secondary schooling. It is one of the schools under the Personnel Division of the Central Committee for National Economic Accounting of the Gosplan, whose programs were outlined in the Collected Program you sent me this summer. The course includes of course basic science, languages, dialectical materialism, and physical education. In the first two years specialization is on mathematics and statistics. In the last two years, economics and planning theory. Graduates go immediately to jobs in planning agencies or to research work. Other details are interesting but not relevant to this letter. I was allowed to look over the mimeographed programs of lectures, similar to the printed program mentioned above.

In Moscow, I hoped to find a similar institute and also a research institute. At Leningrad they had mentioned this and suggested that I might get programs and other information at the offices of the committee in charge of curricula for such schools. However, VOKS was able to make no such contacts and we hesitated to press the matter. The new man at VOKS, Mr. Melikovski, listened carefully to my wishes and promised to do his best. He made appointments for me to see Prof. Lusin and Prof. Kolmogoroff, the first a function theorist, the second a statistician not interested in economics. At the office of the latter, I happened to run into Prof. Slutsky, one of whose articles I had seen in America. He emphasized the point that he had given up economics ten years ago, and was interested solely in other applications of statistics. The conclusion was not that there are no economic statisticians left in Russia, but that they were connected with the Gosplan or its schools which were undergoing a complete shakedown. John visited the foreign office and talked with Mr. Vinegradoff-- Mr. Neymann having been removed. There he was told that they

understood that it had been made clear that it would not be possible to study in the Soviet Union at this time. As far as we could tell, all foreign students had left, were leaving, or had little hope of staying long. It was clearly ~~a~~ poor moment, so we dropped the matter.

However, just before leaving we went with John to see Vinegradoff. He was very cordial, talked over the problems that we might face returning next year, and in general gave the impression that it was only a matter of time.

There came two pieces of good luck in connection with the principal purpose of the trip. John introduced me to Eugene Schwert, representative of the International Business Machines Corporation, who lent me some of the Companies manuals and showed us through an exhibit of accounting machines which included some of the soviet-made copies as well as his own. Secondly, Mr. Habicht introduced me to Albert Rhys-Williams and his ^{collaborator} assistant, Mrs. Erskine, who were staying at the National.

Altho~~ugh~~ unable to see the people in planning, there was nothing to prevent buying the books and periodicals in the field. Hence, I scoured the book stores and shipped out bundle after bundle to England. This collection alone will be worth the trip.

John of course was a peach. He showed us around the town, introduced us to every variety of Muscovite, took us to the theater, and gave up hours of his time to "gossiping". We met the principal newspaper correspondents, Spencer Williams (Amer-Russ C. of C.), the Ambassador, the principal secretaries and attachés at the Embassy, and uncounted others. Mr. Henderson was away. I got to know J.D. Stamm (Secretary to Ambassador) and Emlyn Davies, who periodically came into the picture to contrast with young Russians John introduced us to. At lunch at the Ambassador's I met Anna Louise Strong.

Habicht was excellent and worried only by the fact that he could do no more for us. Everything went smoothly, and we were limited only by the length of the day and the tenseness of the situation. It was a great climax to the trip to get tickets on the Red Square.

I have plenty of money and shall send a report when I arrive in England.*

Faithfully yours,

Kenneth Torrey

*About the 20 th as I have people to see in Stockholm.

KM...WSR...10...Personal, Financial

19 Gordon Street
London, W.C.1.
November 26, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

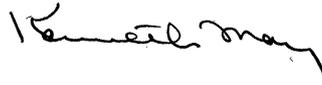
The long overdue letter concerning activities of the last weeks will be forthcoming. In the mean time, this financial report. As you see by the enclosed sheet, I had on hand \$172.76 on the 21st. This would last for some time, but it seems a pity to change the checks into money, only to reverse the process later on. Also it might be well to keep this as a reserve.

Living expenses in England are higher than I anticipated. However, \$200 per month seems the best figure to try. Probably the best way to transfer the amount would be through the Institute's banker to any one of the large banks in London. I have no preference in the matter, but should like to get started on a regular basis with December if that is convenient.

We spent several days in Stockholm, during which I made valuable contacts; also a day in Copenhagen, where Howard met Bohr. Arriving here last Friday night, I received your telegram at the American Express the next morning. That day and the next were spent in looking for rooms and getting settled. Really satisfactory rooms are almost impossible to find.

In the last few days we have gotten started with Russian classes. I have made contacts in R.A. Fisher's group and at the L.S.E. It is very pleasant to be getting down to work. If you have no objection, some of my next letters will concern things in Moscow which I did not have time to write about while there.

Holiday greetings!



P.S. John is to be in Paris on the fourteenth of December, and we are planning to meet him there for a reunion. Otherwise I shall be here, although I may succumb to one of the invitations I have received to go on a short skiing trip.

40
KM...WSR...11...A

19 Gordon Street
London, W.C.1.
December 3, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Stockholm was more beautiful than ever under a thin mantle of snow which covered the roofs and

Undoubtedly there is much for us to learn in Sweden, which seems to have attained an extraordinary modern high standard of living while avoiding the choice between communism and fascism, but the thesis that Sweden offers a model of the middle way for us to copy ignores her special position and

Denmark is full of bicycles and butter

At Harwich we were given the catechism which one is supposed to encounter at the Soviet border. Not to mention the customs officials, the immigration authorities were so afraid that we might accept "employment paid or unpaid" that

After pushing my way through the grimey fog to dinner, only to be enveloped in an even thicker mist rising from beef and boiled potatoes

The difficulties of finding adequate and reasonable lodgings in London are enough to lead anyone to a serious study of

.....So might have begun half a dozen letters, but each was submerged in the activities which might have produced the next. Now that I am physically settled and beginning at the L.S.E. and School of Slavonic Studies, perhaps some of them may yet be written.

Meanwhile England is a good vantage point from which to watch the deterioration of the international situation. The Halifax visits, played up as a move for "appeasement", but on better authority taken to mean a deal giving Germany a free hand in the East. The "capitalist encirclement" of the U.S.S.R. becomes very concrete. The revelations in connection with the "Hooded Men" in France. It is suggested that this arms plot, certainly financed and supplied largely from abroad, was coordinated consciously with the Halifax visits. Such wholesale preparations for violence by the right in a democratic country shed some light on the alleged "impossibility" of the somewhat more extensive spying and terroristic activities by similar forces in the Soviet Union.

People here talk quite glibly of war as a matter of months or weeks. In Parliament, M.P.'s with a sense of humour make fantastic proposals for air-raid protection, mocking the inadequate plans of the government, while a great debate goes on as to whether the cost should come from local or national funds. It will be hard to "muddle through" an air raid. The prospect is not made much more pleasant from the world view by the thought that the National Government may have bought a delay for England at the price of Italian penetration in Spain, the Japanese entrenched in China, and Germany "left alone" with Austria and Czecho-Slovakia.

Best Holiday Greetings,

Kenneth May

KM...WSR...12...Personal

London, England
December 3, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Since last writing I have worked out more definitely my program for next term. It includes four hours weekly of Russian classes and an equal amount in statistics and economics. However, I may add some tutoring in conversational Russian.

Had a pleasant chat with Sir Bernard Pares. Plan to attend a series of lectures by Turin on the Current Economic Problems of the U.S.S.R. Laski gave me some helpful suggestions and offered to introduce me to people here who may be helpful later, such as the Webbs.

In my last financial letter, I suggested \$200 per month as a good basis. However, I suggest adding \$150 to the January check to cover tuition for the next two terms. Not all of it has to be paid right away, but it would probably be simpler to send the whole amount.

An inside (supposedly) tip, which you probably know all about. Myrdal, the planner whom I saw in Sweden, is coming to America under the auspices of the Rockefeller (?) Foundation to make a study of the negro problem. He did not tell me, but someone else told me that he was telling everyone in "strictest secrecy". He is supposed to think that no difficulties will be put in his way in personally investigating conditions.

At the moment, my only difficulty is too many engagements. Still I am working.

With best wishes for the holidays.

My
12

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NLT
KENNETH MAY

DECEMBER 8, 1937.

19 GORDON STREET
LONDON (ENGLAND)

CABLING YOU AND HOWARD EACH TWO HUNDRED PERHAPS EACH BETTER OPEN ACCOUNT
 LONDON STOP HOPE PLEASANT VISIT HAZARD PARIS STOP WORRY ABOUT ANTONIUS
 GENERAL HEALTH AND ATTITUDE BEEN INTENSIFIED BY LETTER RECENTLY RECEIVED
 STOP IF HAVE SEEN HIM PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOUR VIEWS STOP THIS CABLE FOR
 BOTH YOU AND HOWARD ^{stop} MAILED BOOK AMEXPRESS GREETINGS

ROGERS.

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

London, England
December 10, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Leningrad Planning Institute was housed in a four story post-revolutionary building in one of the partially rebuilt districts of the city. Its blue modernity made a good impression as my guide and I walked across a rather bleak open space separating it from the street. After the inevitable formalities of admission, we proceeded to the office of the director of the institute, a very cordial man with a pair of skis leaning against his coat rack. He suggested a tour of the building to be followed by a conference with his assistant and another colleague.

Except for a certain severity, the building was very much like one in America: Lecture halls and conference rooms full of students. Laughing jostling crowds during the intermission. Laboratories for natural science and rooms full of calculating machines. Library, reserved book room, and study hall. Even a gymnasium complete with basketball court, volley ball nets, and acrobatic gadgets. But there were differences too: The beautifully illuminated wall newspapers containing articles on student activities and their relation to society--athletics, studies, social events, international affairs, socialist construction, national defense. Deep red banners in all the halls inscribed in white with the slogans of the new constitution and the then coming elections. In the gymnasium, coeducational classes as elsewhere, seemingly permeated with a spirit of gay teamwork. To the director's greeting, "Zdrastvuhtye", they replied crisply in unison, "Zdrah." Upstairs were quarters for two thirds of the students. Through the window, they pointed out a large building under construction which was to accomodate all the students.

The Institute's four year course is intended to follow the ten year compulsory elementary and secondary education which starts at the age of eight. Hence the students are about the same age as collegians in the United States, although there are still a few older men and women, who had to start their education after the revolution. Upon graduation, the statistician-accountant-planner finds a job waiting in one of local agencies of Gosplan, the State Planning Commission. Some are allowed to go on to further academic work and research in the higher institute in Moscow.

In addition to free room, each student receives a stipend, varying from 100 roubles for the poorest students to 250 for the "otlichniki". Text books are free or obtainable in the library. Most of the students belong to the Students' Union which is part of the trade union structure of the country, and there is also a union for the staff. Although 50% of the freshman class were Komsomols (Members of the Young Communist League), less than

5% of the senior class were members of the Party. The general conduct of the school, including discipline, is in the hands of the faculty, subject to the limitations imposed by the national committee of the Gosplan which is in charge of these schools.¹ Although the teachers are expected to do research and write, they are not frequently used as consultants. However, workers from the Gosplan often come to give special lectures, and part of the student's time is spent in practice work in the Gosplan and elsewhere. Marking is not done on the basis of "class average", but against a nationally determined standard. As a result the freshman class contains 20% otlichniki (those who receive 100% in all subjects), while ^{the} figure dwindles considerably during the following and progressively more difficult years.

A discussion of the curriculum must be reserved for later letters, but it is worthwhile noting here the general emphases established for the four years: I. Mathematics, II. Statistics, III. Political Economy and Dialectics, IV. Planning Theory. The program includes of course many other topics: natural science, languages, accounting, etc. Some idea of the quality (or hoped for quality) may be gained from the fact that ^{the} syllabus for mathematics ~~which was shown~~ included the differential and integral calculus, elementary differential equations, and theory of interpolation.

Holiday greetings to all,

Kenneth M. Gray

¹The system of schools of various types, of which the Lenin-grad Planning Institute is only one, is run by the Personnel Division, Central Administration of National Economic Accounting, of the Gosplan of the U.S.S.R. (Sektor Kadroff, Tsunhu, Gosplana SSSR).

KM...WSR...14...Personal

file

S.S. Manhattan
En route, Havre-Southampton
December 15, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

We are getting quite used to jumping about from city ^{to city} London yesterday, Paris today, and London again tomorrow. It is very pleasant to see John again. Also we had the good luck to have lunch with George Antonius today. He seemed in good spirits and apparently over the cold which he had when Howard and I had a chat with *him* last Friday afternoon. He is tired though and nervous to the degree expected of one who has just given birth to a book.

We reached Mr. Pilenco, who showed us around "old Paris" and then took us to his home for tea. We met his charming wife and his daughter Natalie. Listening to his views on the S.U. was very instructive.

The main purpose of this letter is to wish you the very best at Christmas and during the new year. My greetings also to the Institute staff, the Directors, your wife, and such friends as Marianne Pilenco. I suppose that Mr. Crane is in California, and hope that he has recovered from the difficulties he had recently.

Da zdravstvuyet Incwa!

Kenneth May

KM...WSR...15...A-B-D.

*F.C. per copy
and send to
draft. WSR*

London, England
December 18, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

During the last few years, the term "planning" has been used so recklessly in various contexts that one wonders whether it is simply a new piece of "window dressing", a new "positive-reaction symbol", with which it is convenient to clothe ideas which must be peddled. The term "plan" suggests that things are being done in a rational way; it gives confidence. Hence we find every group claiming that it has a plan, as though planning itself had some particular merit. This applies to everyone from the Socialists with their "planned economy" to the Oxford Group with its "God has a plan". Of course, given certain ends, we are more likely to reach them if we act according to a plan of some sort, but the crucial point is the purpose and content of the plan, not its mere existence.

There may perhaps be some sense about talking of the desirability of planning in general, if we are thinking of the question as to whether whole nations, perhaps the world, should subject their development and activity to conscious control rather than leaving them to be the resultant of various uncoordinated forces. It is possible to ask this question only because the world has reached a stage of technical development in which this control might in fact be exercised. The stage is set for it, so to speak, and even those who prefer "laissez-faire" realize that, paradoxically enough, considerably more conscious centralized control will be necessary to insure the conditions under which it can operate. In other words, now that the possibility of control exists there is going to be a scramble for the driver's seat. To argue for "no control" in such a situation is to ignore the fact that the question actually being decided is not "Plan or No Plan" ¹ but "What sort of plan, and who will execute it?". All on the assumption, of course, that the whole mechanism will not be destroyed in the struggle for control.

From a Marxist point of view, this cult of "planning" leads also to an altogether too narrow consideration of current social problems. To contrast Socialism with Capitalism, treating these as synonymous with "Planned Economy" and "Unplanned Economy" respectively ², is to ignore other fundamental differences between the systems ³. Planning, like administration, is a technique which can be used for every conceivable purpose, although the social characteristics of the society in which it is used will determine its purposes and methods. Talk of planning in general and consideration of social problems formally from this viewpoint alone distract attention from the contents and difficulties of execution of various plans.

It leads also to verbal arguments and confusions. One can already hear people arguing that Fascism is or is not really a "planned economy". Of course it is not, if we restrict "planning"

to mean the type of prejudgment and control exercised in the Soviet Union, but then we will have to invent some new word for whatever they do in Fascist countries when they make and carry out economic plans. In order to avoid these confusions, the following definition of "planning" is suggested: Given a set (or system) of measurable quantities (economic, social, technical), planning is the process (or act) of making advance decisions as to relations between them and controlling the set so as to realize these relations. Now if we wish to talk of some particular type of planning we have only to add a modifier and specify just what quantities are involved and the context in which they lie.⁴ For example, Town Planning involves quantities connected with the amounts and distributions of population, housing, conveniences, parks, etc. within a municipal area.

Someone may object that it is wrong to identify the various types of planning in capitalist countries with "socialist planning", even by using the same word as part of the label of each. In spite of the distinction suggested below, however, it seems more convenient to use the word "planning", just as we do "administration", in describing various societies, specifying of course the characteristics in each case. From a formal point of view, without bringing in the essential differences between Socialism and Capitalism, "Soviet Planning" and various types of planning under Capitalism differ in one very important respect. In the latter, each group which plans, whether it be a city, a corporation, or a national governmental agency, is concerned with quantities some of which are entirely outside its control. Put more generally, the number of controls is less than the number of quantities, and the unknown quantities must be guessed at. In the Soviet Union, on the other hand, the number of controls is at least as great as the number of variables. Except for "acts of God" and other phenomena which may be predicted with considerable statistical accuracy, the only uncontrolled quantities are some of those involved in foreign trade. We might say that Soviet Planning was a type of "Semi-Closed Planning", and refer to the others as types of "Open Planning", the term "Closed" being reserved for planning in a closed system such as the entire world or a completely autarchic state.

New Year Greetings to all.

Kenneth May

1
and

2. Barbara Wootton in her rather idealistic, but at times stimulating "Plan or No Plan" (Gollancz 1934), starts (p.7) with the following: "...any contrast of socialism with capitalism, of plan with no-plan, must begin with a clear understanding of just what is meant by each term".
3. "Any examination of a socialist economy, if it is to be concrete, must clearly start from this essential fact: that the fundamental character of socialism consists in its abolition of the class relation which forms the basis of capitalist production....." -- Maurice Dobb, "Political Economy and Capitalism" (Routledge 1937)
4. In his "Planning and Capitalism" (W.E.T.U.C. 1937), Dobb is more careful than some. He says (p.75) speaking of Sweden and France: "In neither of these cases has anything which could be described as "socialist planning" been adopted" (my italics).



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London, December 18, 1937.

Sir:

I am directed by the Chargé d'Affaires to inform you that Mr. Kenneth Ownsworth May called at this Embassy on December 18 and stated that, under the auspices of the Institute of Current World Affairs, he was in England to study, among other things, subjects pertaining to Russia.

Mr. May said that he desired to make himself known to the Embassy in case inquiries concerning him might possibly be made by British authorities.

In this connection, it would be greatly appreciated if you would furnish the Embassy with any general information you may care to give in regard to Mr. May's connection with the Institute and to the purposes of his stay in England.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Brown, Jr.".

James E. Brown, Jr.
Second Secretary of Embassy.

Mr. Walter S. Rogers,
522 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

December 23rd, 1937

Dear Kenneth:

John Hazard arrived last evening, and we have spent much of today gossiping and discussing plans.

Your father came in during the afternoon. Unfortunately John had gone downtown. I hope to arrange for them to meet tomorrow, but they seem to have conflicting plans. Your father seems very well. We had a very good talk.

Your letters come along regularly, but the distribution has been none too regular at this end. The office has been rushed with business, but after Christmas the old routine will be resumed. I may even take to writing letters! Yours I find interesting. Try to be as spontaneous and as revelatory as you can without making a forced effort.

I expect to be in Chicago next week, but will return here to have a few days with John Crane before he sails for Italy on the fifteenth. He is now in California with his father and mother.

All I have to say about your work is that you drive along doing the things that appeal to you as interesting and worthwhile. I shall probably be along late in the spring. By that time your ideas will perhaps have crystallized. Go to it and squeeze all you can out of your day by day experiences.

Christmas and New Year's Greetings,

WSR/fc

Mr. Kenneth May,
19 Gordon Street,
London, W. C. 1
England.

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DAY LETTER

PROFESSOR S. C. MAY

DEC. 23rd 1937.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY CALIFORNIA

JOHN HAZARD JUST RETURNED FROM MOSCOW SAW KENNETH PARIS STOP HAZARD AND
 I WILL BE UNIVERSITY CLUB CHICAGO FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEGINNING TWENTY-NINTH
 STOP WE WILL BE DELIGHTED TO SEE YOU IF YOU ARE THEREABOUTS STOP HAVE
 LETTER FOR YOU FROM KENNETH WHERE SHALL I SEND IT GREETINGS

WALTER S. ROGERS

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES.

51

K.M...W.S.R...16...A-B-C.

London, England
December 28, 1937

Dear Mr. Rogers:

It is not easy to describe the English Christmas season. Like all other activities, celebrations are carried on in private here, and each class celebrates in its appropriate way. Of course, during the week before Christmas London was gayer than usual. The streets were crowded with shoppers, and along Oxford Street and Piccadilly the stores had set up special displays. Shops stayed open well into the evening, and the wet streets made the lights seem even brighter than they were. On Holborn peddlers demonstrated clever new German toys on the sidewalk.

But all this was merely preparation for the real Christmas, to be held behind closed doors. London is like a tomb on a Sunday, as any traveller who has been caught there knows. Almost everything is closed, the trains run only as a concession, and in short one had much better retire. Now Christmas Day is a sort of super-Sunday. Even the busses stopped running in the afternoon, while all England ate boiled pudding. Of course, there were some exceptions. A few escaped to the continent for skiing (sheeing). A few blissful drunks dotted the otherwise empty streets. And there must have been a good many who avoided indigestion by simply not having the money to spend on a Christmas dinner.

Christmas Eve found three students nosing about in the Cambridge market square. We were in search of lettuce, but had to be content with spinach. A few moments later, heavily laden with edibles and drinkables, we arrived at the little cottage, where we had lit the fire before going out to shop. Built in the sixteenth century, it hardly satisfied my definition of a cottage.....simply three little rooms one above the other. But except for the electric light and comfortable furniture, it might have looked very much the same for centuries. Through a low door near the old stove-fireplace, one had to step into a tiny court to fetch water. Standing out there, I saw my first starry sky in many weeks.

While dinner cooked on the fireplace, we continued the discussion begun that afternoon. At twelve o'clock all was ready; corks popped, meat sizzled, and our chef put just the right amounts of butter and seasoning on the greens. Two hours later we were sitting contentedly around the table before the fire with plenty of Mosel and tobacco left. I leaned back in my chair, staring at the paper pasted between the beams to cover the cracks between crooked floorings, and felt that we had escaped into the middle ages.

Greetings to all.


Kenneth May

KM:..WSR...17...A-B-C.

file
*pls make
clean copy
for strength.*

London, England
January 13, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Back in London after a very much needed vacation from damp weather. A holiday, however short, fulfills its purpose if one completely forgets and loses the feeling of work. Still, for perfection a little seasoning of reminders is required. This was such a perfect holiday.

The winter day was already over as our train pulled in at St. Lazare. As we crept along in a special bus going to the Gare de Lyon, we thanked our lucky stars that it had been impossible to get a taxi. It was the day of the general strike of transportation workers! All Paris was walking home. The streets were jammed with private cars and taxis held in place by the cement of pedestrians. Not a bus, not a train was running. The public took their punishment without complaint, and a few days later we read that the strikers had won their demands. At each intersection was a frantic gendarme who let only a half dozen cars move at a time. The result was an excellent opportunity to observe the Paris streets, buildings, and cafes. By this time I was leaning strongly in favor of the last named. The most modern ~~shoe~~ building we paused in front of was the new headquarters of the Communist Party of France, now the largest party in the country with 350,000 members. The name stood out bold and respectable in shiny chromium against the bright new brick. At their annual conference they were supporting the current strike, one illustration of the ticklish tactics which must be followed by a revolutionary party supporting a popular front government. The government was frowning very darkly on this particular strike.

A good dinner with vin ordinaire and a very quiet night, since there were no metros or buses, and we were ready for another day of travel. At Geneva we were met by friends, and the next day our party collected at the Bavaria Restaurant, surrounded by caricatures of the ghosts of a certain league which is said to have had its headquarters in Geneva. A German, now Swiss, a charming Swiss couple, an Oxford botanist, an American student in Geneva, a Californian chemist, and an American unclassifiable--our only language in common was French, a great overstatement as applied to the last named American. The jerky ride in the third class carriage, the crowded bus ride through ever deepening snow, and the many songs we sang made us closer brothers than could a common nationality.

It was quite dark as we finished buying provisions and started up the icy trail for our chalet. When its lights finally appeared they seemed very high up and far away, but we were soon seated in a low ceiled room full of people, rucksacks, soup and steam, all kept in circulation by lusty songs. This chalet was built by and for working people of Geneva. Accordingly everything was simple and each did his

own work. A little crowded perhaps, few conveniences, but an atmosphere of comradeship only to be found in such chalets all over the world.

They had something to teach us about keeping warm in such cold weather. We all lay down side by side on a tremendous mattress, and then an official laid blankets over us in a manner dictated, no doubt, by years of experience. The results were excellent, though one wonders what the last man in the hut does when it comes his turn to be covered. There was no time for such questions next morning. Opposite the hut was a beautiful open slope with a slalom course set. The valley stretched up to steep trails leading to high open ski fields. Yah-hooooo!!! This was the way to spend New Years Day.

The short holiday over, most of the skiers had to return to work. There remained behind some unemployed, who were allowed to stay free at the lodge, a Swiss worker who was recovering from the effects of an Italian bomb dropped on him in Spain, and the guardian. The Spanish veteran talked very calmly of his experiences as a volunteer, the sensations connected with being almost a direct hit, the excellent medical attention given him, and the fact that he could not return to Switzerland, as fighting for the loyalists would bring a prison sentence. Apparently he was almost recovered, since he skied with that delightful Tyrolean grace, which proclaimed him by far the best skier at the chalet. The guardian was a stocky Swiss-German woman of "exactly 43", whose face glowed like a polished apple. She was kindness itself to the little party of students. When "the first American who has been here" had indigestion, she was greatly concerned and celebrated his recovery with a raisine cake. She told us that Lenin had lived in the same boarding house in Zurich. He was very quiet, she said, always ate alone if possible and returned immediately to writing. He never talked politics nor "played politics", since he ~~would have~~ might be expelled from Switzerland. The last day she had a little quarrel with a charming, but too excitable Frenchman, who she said liked too much to "make politics with his tongue".

The last day we had perfect snow--a few inches of powder on a hard crust. For an hour and a half we sailed, glided, swished downward until we began to feel the rocks. Still we would not give up. We glided slowly along the mountain road dropping to the station until the snow petered out altogether. I had gone away in search of a complete change and had found it. But even in a little chalet, high in the alps were reminders that made me glad to be on the way back.

Cordial greetings,

(Personal)
P.S. Thank you for the telegram and your letter of the 23rd. I am glad you had a chat with Dad, and hope he was able to meet John. Give my best to John and to Mr. Brodie. Howard is still away skiing in Austria. When I left for Geneva he was suffering from sinus, and I am sure the stay there will do him good.

January 14th, 1938.

Mr. James E. Brown, Jr.,
American Embassy,
London, England.

My dear Mr. Brown:

Your letter of December 18th inquiring about Mr. Kenneth May I found awaiting me on my return here a few days ago.

For an adequate reply it perhaps is desirable that I give you a certain amount of background. About ten years ago Mr. Charles R. Crane set up a sizeable trust fund, the income from which is more or less tagged to be used to give a few exceptionally promising young Americans opportunity to study basic problems for extended periods of time. The Board of Trustees of the fund includes such people as Isaiah Bowman, president of Johns Hopkins University, Harold G. Moulton, president of the Brookings Institution, Washington, Henry Allen Moe, secretary of the Guggenheim Foundation, and John Nicholas Brown of Providence. Any number of officials of the Department of State are familiar with the Institute and have on occasion cooperated unofficially.

At about the time the Department was selecting personnel for the new Embassy in the U.S.S.R. it turned out that there was no American with a knowledge of Soviet law. It occurred to the Trustees of the Institute that it might be well to make it possible for some one to specialize in that field. A senior by the name of John N. Hazard was recommended by the authorities of the Harvard Law School. He comes from a fine old Rhode Island family and is a Hill School-Yale-Harvard Law product. An arrangement was made through the Soviet Embassy, Washington, for his admittance to the Moscow Juridical Institute (as it is now called). Last June he completed the regular three year course. He gave to the American Embassy in Moscow copies of his legal studies. The members of the staff there know him very well. In a way he has been considered one of the family.

After spending the fall in Moscow, Hazard returned here to deliver an address on December 30th before the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Schools. Before doing so, he talked at length with Mr. Kennan at Department of State and with officials of the Soviet Embassy, Washington.

Hazard is now writing a book to be entitled "An Introduction to Soviet Law". He may be in London about June on his way to Russia where it will be necessary for him to go to check certain doubtful points.

The experience with Hazard has led to two developments that are now underway. One is to finance two young men to study in the same way Japanese and Chinese law. (I have just received a letter from Ambassador Grew on the possibility of an American studying law in Tokyo under present conditions). The other is to finance studies in Soviet Russia and elsewhere of how the physical and biological sciences and the related technologies, such as engineering, medicine, etc., are organized, financed, and furthered and of their economic, political and social significance. It is here where Kenneth May and Howard M. Wiedemann, another young American who is being financed and who is also in London for the winter, come into the picture.

May is a highly gifted mathematician with an interest in mathematical economics and in national planning, particularly with reference to the furtherance of science and technology. His father is head of the Department of Public Administration of the University of California and of outstanding reputation in his field.

Wiedemann, whose father died many years ago, comes from the University of Buffalo, is interested in the history of science and with what may roughly be called the philosophy of science.

Both of the young men were in Moscow during the fall. As conditions were not propitious, they went to London to continue there the study of Russian and studies in their respective fields. It is hoped that by fall conditions will be such as to make it feasible for them to settle down in Moscow for a year or two. We are hoping to find five or six other young men, each with professional training in one of the sciences and technologies, to investigate other aspects of the interpenetration of science and society.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science and the corresponding American organization are increasingly devoting attention to the subject. The Administration in Washington, Congress and several of the state legislatures are wrestling with aspects of the problems involved in the organization and furtherance of the sciences and the technologies.

From the viewpoint of the Trustees of this Institute it seems evident that many of the changes and tensions of the present day are resultants of scientific and technological achievement and that national and international affairs may well be explored from this angle.

Mr. James E. Brown, Jr. - - - - - 3.

Just where the work of such men as May and Wiedemann and others we are seeking will lead, we do not pretend to know, but we will give them every opportunity and we are assured of active cooperation from many directions.

So far as we know May and Wiedemann are men of fine character, exceptional promise, and scientific type of mind. I commend both of them to you.

WSR/fc

Yours sincerely,

KM...WSR...18...A-B-C-D less Dodgson, *By the way, it should be Prof. not Mr. Mowbray (D. 11)*

London, England
January 17, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Yesterday there took place here ^{announced} a meeting which may be significant in the development of a "popular front" in Great Britain. Early in November the Left Book Club that there would be a "great rally at the Albert Hall..." on January sixteenth. Within ten days every seat was sold. The Queen's Hall, second largest in London, was engaged for an overflow meeting. By the middle of December it was half sold out, and on a rainy Sunday in January people came from all over Great Britain and even some from Ireland to pack both halls. An organization which can do this in the second year of its existence is worth investigating, but the meeting itself will be enough for this letter.

And a strange meeting it was. Called by Victor Gollancz, the publisher who supplied book bargains to the Club's 50,000 members, it was much more than a rally of good customers. The speakers represented all groups from the Liberal Party left--with the insignificant exception of people who were too r-r-radical to be seen in company with "reactionary" communists. The Left Book Club was only incidental to a giant anti-National Government, anti-fascist rally. ~~All~~ The speakers touched on every social problem of the day, and each was related the single issue stated in a dozen ways: Democracy vs. Fascism, Progress vs. Reaction,

After Gollancz had outlined the program--no money was wasted on printing any--he introduced John Strachey as the first speaker. Dwelling at length on the "coming slump", he pointed out the significance of the present deluge of cheerful statements from industrialists and conservative politicians. In spite of Fascist successes, he said, one could take heart from the set backs Fascism had received even from the pitifully inadequate resistance in Spain and China. Following Strachey was one of the parliamentary whips of the Labour Party, Richard Acland. He revealed the discussion groups which had grown up around the L.B.C. as centers of anti-Tory activity. Stressing the importance of capturing the agricultural areas and taking over the patriotic slogans too long debauched by the Tories, he ended with a strong plea for tolerance from the left in admitting all progressive, even if non-socialist elements to the popular front. White haired Lord Addison, Minister for Agriculture in the last Labour Government, then made a short talk in which he brought down the house by saying that he did not "care a button what some one calls himself if he will fight for peace". Upon the basis of his own experience in the Ministry of Munitions during the World War, he said that the achievement of the Spanish government in supplying herself with arms in spite of the denial of her rights under international law was a remarkable one. Sir Charles Trevelyan, former President of the Board of Education, made an outspoken appeal for an alliance of the democratic powers--Britain, France, and the Soviet Union to be joined by the United States and finally by the Northern Countries. While disapproving of many of the methods used in the U.S.S.R., he pointed out that at least the people of Russia had something to show for it, while Britain's bloody part in the World War had netted her people exactly nothing.

The chairman now "with great pleasure" introduced himself and proceeded with a lengthy report on the Club's work and its plans for expansion. These topics will have to wait for another letter. A clever and witty speaker, Gollancz put himself on intimate terms with his audience by constantly "ragging" himself and his colleagues, letting the audience in on the conduct of the business, and reading amusing letters. Perhaps the best of these was from a boy who wrote, "I wish to resign from the Club as I am an impressionable adolescent". Although the afternoon was wearing on, the listeners' concentration remained intense. Perhaps they were patient partly because of what was to come next. Some time ago, when appearing at the Unity Theater, Paul Robeson had said, "And you're going to see a lot more of me from now on". By now this smiling giant was a familiar figure at all progressive meetings, and when he appeared at the entrance he was greeted by a demonstration which ~~was~~ satisfied Jim Farley's political technicians. They cheered him not only as a great artist who constantly gave his time to them, but as a leader of an oppressed people--a symbol of their hatred of race prejudice and bigotry. And when he sang "a song about the Soviet Union" (Pesnya o Rodinye), one could hear ages of suffering of the negro people and a new hope in the last words, "no other land, where man walks the earth so proud and free", for the U.S.S.R. is the only country in the world where discrimination against him would be a crime.

After a rather low pressure collection of money for Spain and China, Harry Pollitt, leader of the British Communist Party, gave a precise, hard-hitting summary of the situation, the position of the L.B.C., and the tasks for the coming year. Meanwhile the Dean of Canterbury arrived from the overflow meeting and gave a brief statement of the pro-Soviet, united front christian position. Significantly, Gollancz requested that the meeting should not close with the International. Isolated shouts of "Why not?" changed to steady cheering and calls of "Hear, hear" when he explained that many of the audience were not members of the "militant international working class movement" whose song it was.

Sir Charles Trevelyan had set the tone of the meeting by saying, "Last year it was a question of the defense of Madrid; this year it is a question of the capture of Teruel". Until now the democratic forces had been on the defensive against fascism; this year would mark the turning point. The Labour Party was stirring. Defeat the National Government when it springs a "surprise" election! Arms to the legal government of Spain! Boycott Japan! Fight the effects of the slump! Create a democratic alliance between Britain, the United States, France, and the Soviet Union!

Happy New Year!

K.M.

KM...WSR...19...Personal

19 Gordon Street WC1
London, England
January 20. 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

When writing the usual letters I seem always to forget to request that you send me some American magazines. If it is not too late, would you order for me Time, the New Yorker, the Survey Graphic, and the New Masses? Howard and I plan to poach on each others magazines.

Although I am taking only four hours of Russian classes, I do some reading in addition every day. A series of lectures at L.S.E. by Schwartz under the title of "The Economics of Joint Stock Company Legislation" promises to be very interesting--and quite a propos Arnold's book which is crying out to be read.

Yesterday's decree on rectifying excesses in the "purge" probably indicates the beginning of a loosening up, but I do not think we can be optimistic merely on that account. As long as the international situation remains tense, the chances of working there remain small. So thinks Jack Miller, with whom I talked yesterday. (Probably you know that he spent over a year in Gosplan on a fellowship from England, but left early in 1936 as the situation became too tense for effective work.) He is planning a book at this moment, based on his experience and the material he is digging out of the literature. The other day, he gave an excellent lecture at King's College on the planning organization of the U.S.S.R. I expect to see more of him. John knew him and would probably be glad to know that we met.

Cordial greetings to all.

R/S
P.S. I have a Philco Radio which gets Russian stations quite clearly, so it is possible to hear the spoken language every day.

January 27, 1938

Mr. Kenneth May,
19 Gordon Street,
London, W. C. 1,
England.

Dear Kenneth:

Your interesting No. 18 came in this morning. I should welcome in due time a series of letters about your studies. By the way, how is your Russian progressing?

J. G. Crowther came in recently and spent most of an afternoon with me. He will not be back in England for two or three months.

Yesterday Henry James, who is one of the Board of Overseers of Harvard, told me that President Conant and the members of Harvard's governing body were becoming increasingly interested in the interpenetration of science and society and that they had no doubt that within the next decade or so most universities would be offering courses on that subject and on the history of science.

Habicht, in Moscow, seems to be having some difficulty about staying there as the representative of the Open Road. I telegraphed Troyanovsky yesterday putting in a vigorous word. Intourist seems to be a bit jealous of Open Road and Open Road, by advertising that it was the only tourist agency maintaining an agent in Moscow, stirred its competitors into insistence that if Open Road could keep a man in Moscow they should be allowed the same privilege. I sincerely hope that Habicht will be permitted to carry on, for he has been very useful to us.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/fc

KM...WSR...20...A-B-D

London, England
January 29, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Being just twice as much an expert on Marxism as a few weeks ago--that is having now finished volume II of Capital--perhaps I may take the liberty of discussing a book on the subject.

"Money" by Emile Burns is the first of a series of "Simple, Short, Authoritative" books published by Gollancz as "The New People's Library." In its ninety odd pages ~~is condensed~~ much of economic theory from the Marxian point of view--particularly in relation to the theories of money and value. For those who wish to "get the idea" in one easy lesson, the book is admirable. It is said that Marx was suffering from carbuncles when he wrote the first part of Capital. The reader of "Money" will conclude that Burns was not.

This seems a good opportunity to put in a good word for Capital itself. After wading through two volumes, I should like to say that its difficulties have been greatly overstated. There is no justification for warning people not to read it on the ground that it is incomprehensible. Of course it is heavy--except for the historical parts--but it compares very well with the modern article on economics, not to mention several of the well known recent works in the field. Although volume II is considered to be the least important, it is interesting to a mathematical economist because of the use of such concepts as period of production, production functions and stages, and velocity of money.

Burns' discussion of money leads him to touch many other current questions and he gives interesting hints if not complete treatments. For example, the gold standard, trade cycles, monetary reform, stability through cartels and trusts. Most interesting is the final chapter on "Money and Prices in a Socialist State". Among the topics discussed are criteria of planning, the place of interest, and the disappearance of money with the development toward communism. Toward the end he says, "In a system in which things are made for use and not for profit, the idea of exchange value does not apply. The prices of things have no necessary relation to the number of hours of labour required for their production..." Coming from the author of the "Handbook of Marxism", an "approved" Marxist, this throws some light on the argument sometimes heard that the Marxian theory of value is based on an ethical judgment, that for Marx "value" is what things "ought" to sell for. Here we have a statement that under Socialism (a "good" society) value may have little to do with the prices which are fixed.

No doubt the treatment is oversimplified, but this little book is near the ultimate in capsular Marxism.

Cordial Greetings to all.

K.M.

Note enclosure.

London, England.
February 8, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Left Book Club, as suggested in my letter of January 17, is worth investigating as a case study in organizational procedure and an important element in the English anti-fascist movement. It appears to represent a new technique in "left" propaganda and organization particularly appropriate to the English--and hence, perhaps, to the Americans.

The first number of the Left Book News appeared in May 1936. It was no accident that this coincided with the triumph of the Popular Front in France. In his first editorial Victor Gollancz contrasted the doldrums of the British movement with the inspiration of the French successes. He stated explicitly the purpose of the Club: "...out of the small beginning that we are now making something big and important will come, if we have sufficient energy and sufficient faith. For what the Left Book Club is attempting to do is to provide the indispensable basis of knowledge without which a really effective United Front of all men and women of good will cannot be built. If we are to win, we must have, each one of us, not less but more knowledge than the best informed of our enemies."

French army posters urging citizens to take officer's training begin with the words: "IT IS YOUR DUTY AND IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE". This important formula is not neglected by the L.B.C. which is not only an anti-fascist movement but a method of getting good books cheaply. A few weeks before the Left Books News sprang full-blown into existence, Gollancz--already a successful publisher of books for the intelligentsia--advertised the scheme for getting books at bargain prices. It was necessary simply to join the Club, the only obligation being to buy the monthly "choices" for a minimum six months. The books were to be chosen by Prof. H. J. Laski (left-wing Labour), John Strachey (communist), and Gollancz. Immediate joiners would receive "France Today" by Maurice Thorez (5/-) and "Out of the Night: A Biologist's View of the Future" by H.J. Muller (4/6), both together for the modest sum of 2/6. This sounds familiar enough, and indeed the first issue of the News looked rather like the usual publisher's news letter. There are of course all sorts of rumours about the business side of the Club: that Gollancz is spending his fortune, that the L.B.C. is recouping his other losses for him, that Gollancz is raking in profits all round, etc. What seems most likely is that the Club breaks approximately even. At any rate, whatever the status of the business side, the Club immediately became a political movement. The News became less of a publisher's sheet and more of a general Left News, a name which was adopted after the first months. It is now a 44 page monthly with articles, correspondence, reviews, notices, and reprints of important documents such as the new Soviet constitution. It is distributed free with the "choice".

With an initial enrollment of 9,000 the Club grew rapidly. By September it reached almost 20,000 members and accordingly there was a 10/6 book for 2/6. Binding had been changed from paper (otherwise L.B.C. editions were identical with the regular ones) to limp cloth--

in a characteristic orange which must have attracted the eye of many a prospect. It was soon evident that members were not satisfied with buying and reading books. They wrote in to Gollancz giving lists of contacts and making innumerable suggestions many of which have been carried out. Perhaps the most important of these were the "Local Study Circles" of which four were formed in the first month. Gollancz immediately summed up their significance as "...not only for general study, for discussion of the chosen book, and for action, but also for recruiting of new members." The groups, as they were soon called, and the club membership grew together. By the end of 1936 there were over 200 groups and a Club membership of 32,000. By the first anniversary these figures were 450 and 45,000. Numerous "copy-cat" organizations sprung up--The Book Club, Right Book Club, Liberal Book Club, etc. In the Evening Standard, Low (a left-wing cartoonist too good to be fired) depicted the "Book Club War" with contending armies advancing, noses buried in their books, led by Gollancz on the left and inevitable Colonel Blimp on the right. During the summer a slump in membership occurred, but upon publication of Edgar Snow's "Red Star Over China" it jumped again to the present 50,000 + and 700 + ~~groups~~ groups. This means a L.B.C. Group in a good many Newton-le-Willows and Stockton-on-Tees.

Briefly, the group organization is as follows. In any region (town or part of a city) where there is no group, a volunteer convener writes in to have his name printed in the News so that others in his region may get in touch with him. These conveners are not given the names of L.B.C. members in the region--one indication of the care taken in preserving autonomy and freedom of members. The convener keeps in touch with the Club through an organizer who acts purely as a clearing house. The Club has no line of its own, but is in fact a typical popular front organization--an agency for bringing together different opinions on a common basis rather than one for forming a new political faction. It appears to be true that the actual composition of the Club entitles it to claim that it is a genuine popular front body. Quoting from the News of June 1936: "The Left Book Club includes men and women of every shade of opinion: loyal supporters of the Labour Party, Communists, members of the I.L.P., Liberals, and people attached to no political party,.....in its ranks are the working class--which is, of course, its solid basis (Actually the proportion of working-class members is smaller than this suggests,--K.M.)--as well as a great number of middle-class people in all sorts of callings and professions, many "intellectuals", and even a member or two of the House of Lords!" In the groups, these varied elements were and are engaged in "hammering out a minimum programme upon which all of them can agree". In so far as agreement has been reached, it has been manifested in numerous ways: recruiting for the Club through bringing contacts to meetings, distribution of literature, and sending speakers to other organizations; sending of resolutions and lobbying M.P.'s; holding of rallies, conferences, and holiday meetings; social and sporting events; collecting money and making clothes for Spain and China; getting letters and news items in the local press; posters; loan libraries; ~~loan libraries~~ photo leagues and cinema showings; and training schools for speakers and discussion leaders--the list is endless, as you no doubt are beginning to fear. Most important is the work of the members of the groups in activising local Labour Parties and other bodies which have been "hope-

lessly dead". As a letter ungracefully put it: "The Left Book Club provides the shot, the local groups fire that shot individually and collectively in every circle, political and otherwise, possible."

These varied activities led naturally to the formation of special groups for various sorts of people and interests, e.g. Writers and Lawyers, Accountants (!) and Scientists, Esperantists and Musicians. There is even a Correspondence group for isolated members. A Left Book Club Theatre Guild has over 200 local groups. It is upon such a basis--only partially described--that it is possible to get such startling results when occasional stimulation is applied from the center to what is essentially a spontaneous activity. An intelligent observer remarked "It is only necessary for Gollancz to mention in the News that such-and-such a meeting might be a good thing, and the hall is packed."

But what has happened to the basis of all this--the monthly book? Here too, we find great extensions. Members now get "choices" ranging as high as 18/6 for the customary 2/6. At similar reductions they get an "additional" book each month by contracting ahead. There are also "supplementary" books to be ordered individually in advance, a "classic reprint" series, an "educational" series of introductory authoritative texts, an "alternative" book when the "choice" is heavy, a "topical" series sent to contractors upon publication, and a system for obtaining reduced prices from other publishers. In the reverse direction it is possible to take "B" membership and receive only every other choice (at 3/6 however) or "C" membership and take a minimum of four books a year. Some wag has suggested a "D" membership in which one receives no books and pays nothing whatever. There have been enough lists already in this letter, but I must give two examples of the books offered: The Webbs' "Soviet Communism", usually 35/-, L.B.C. 5/- and Brady's "Spirit and Structure of German Fascism", usually 10/6, L.B.C. 2/6 (65%).

What of the future? Judging by the number of suggestions not yet carried out, there is still room for expansion. Outstanding is the proposal made early in 1937 for a weekly, every fourth issue of which would correspond with the present News. This would not be just another magazine, since there is nothing in England in the field covered partially by the American New Masses. In addition to doubling the regular membership, Gollancz suggests the establishment of several "satellite" clubs. The first is to be a "Christian" left book club. Most interesting is one to invade the market hitherto reserved for the "yellow press and trashy novels". Such a series would differ from the present intellectual diet of this part of the population by being better written and having a "left" rather than "right" bias.

Of course in America we have book schemes formally similar to the L.B.C., but the Club is unique in multifarious activities integrated ~~and~~ around the reading of common books. Whatever the future of the organization here or abroad, its experience should be of value to all those interested in techniques of education and propaganda.

Cordial greetings to all,

P.S. In number 18 par. 3, Richard Acland was called a whip of the Labour Party. Actually, it is the Liberal party--a significant fact upon which I was meditating while absently writing "Labour". ~~As soon as I recover from this disgustingly long letter, I shall answer yours of the 27.10.~~

KM...WSR...22.01 (Personal to accompany 22)

London, England
February 13, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Your letters of January 27 and 31 arrived. Before receiving Blucher's letter, I had planned the second letter on training of Soviet planners, which is enclosed as number 22. Perhaps even a third letter will be necessary to form a factual basis on which to discuss Blucher's question. However, I shall write him directly, answering as best I can.

Russian is progressing well as regards reading, less well in speaking. I now read whole sentences without looking up a word--quite a thrill. Later on, I may be able to improve my speaking by taking intensive conversational practice with a tutor, but at present I am taking four hours a week with Prof. Raffi in combined conversation and reading. One of the hours is in composition.

Sorry to hear about Habicht. It is amazing how well he has done so far, so perhaps he will be able to carry on.

I intend writing you a proper letter about my studies without delay. Although, there is little to show for my work, I do feel that I am making headway.

Cordially,

Kenneth

P.S. Enclosed are some pictures promised to John. Could you pass them on to him and let me know if you wish copies?

Sent to
Hazard

9

London, England
February 15, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The Leningrad Planning Institute (described in KM..WSR..13) is one of seven or eight¹ now existing. However, these are not the only institutions for training people to take posts in the planning agencies of the U.S.S.R. There are technical schools (teknikumi) and courses designed to raise the qualifications of workers of every rank. There exist also correspondence courses equivalent^{to} all the above, the graduates of which "receive a certificate and all rights belonging to the graduates of the equivalent stationary institution". Thus the Personnel Division offers appropriate training to all the planning and accounting-statistical staff with or without interruption of work, as well as maintaining institutions and correspondence courses for training new leading personnel.

The curricula are laid down by the Personnel Division subject to the approval of committees acting for the Central Executive Committee of the U.S.S.R. Some of these are assembled in a "Collected Program for Accounting-Statistical Disciplines" published in 1934, which, although out of date, indicates at least the general outlines. The lover of statistics is immediately enchanted, for in addition to the detailed discussions of purpose and content, the distribution of the students time is shown to the hour in tables and charts. The school year is divided very much like ours, running from September 1 to June 30 with a short vacation at Christmas. At the end of each semester comes an examination period--an evil which even Socialism appears unable to avoid. However, the student is not examined in each subject at the end of every semester. In addition to liberal allowance for "consultations" and "practical work" throughout the course, more than a semester is devoted entirely to field work and another half semester on writing a thesis.

Before describing the content of the course, it must be said that little time is spent in studying "planning" in general. As a matter of fact there exists no textbook on planning as such.¹ There are of course numerous books and periodicals devoted to planning in particular industries or regions and special problems involved in drawing up, reporting on, and carrying out the Plan, but so far those who know most about the subject have been too busy to write about it apart from the specific problems of the moment. The emphasis is on equipping the student with technical abilities. The theoretical basis is in Marxism-Leninism and Dialectical Materialism. The Young Communist League and the Communist Party offer training and administrative experience--they must be considered as an integral part of the educational system as of everything else in the U.S.S.R.

The first year is spent almost entirely in laying a scientific basis. In addition to enough mathematics for all future needs (certainly more than 99% of our social scientists ever hear of), we find courses in physics, chemistry (each daily²), and the "technical minimum". This tekminimum is the knowledge considered essential to a manual worker in a branch of industry or agriculture appropriate to the region. In much shorter courses² the student is introduced to political economy, philosophy (dialectical materialism), and economic history. He begins a three year foreign course. Physical education

language

is compulsory throughout the four years.

Having disposed of the "General Scientific Cycle", the course now shifts to social economic studies, the most time consuming subject being the general theory of statistics. Continuing political economy and philosophy, the prospective planner-accountant-statistician adds courses in economic doctrine, economic geography, and book-keeping. In the third year, the student begins specialization in earnest on topics in statistics and accounting. He gets a semester of "National Economic Planning" and a year course entitled "Economics and Planning of the Branch" (of production or agriculture according to the region). In the sixth and seventh semester he has his third and last course of this nature: "The Organization and Planning of Undertakings in the Particular Branch". During the same period there is a light course in "Economic-Defence Studies", the sole member of the "Cycle of War Training". During these last two years, the student has the opportunity of choosing among several optional courses: special work in statistics, theory of probability, mathematics, world economy, economic law, census taking, accounting, and norm-making (teknormirovanye). All students study "Lenism"--the culmination of the theoretical social science training.

After spending the last ten weeks² of the sixth semester working in business establishments, the students return to further intense specialization in the seventh semester. In addition to further work in accounting (e.g. "Theory of Soviet Bookkeeping-Accounting") and statistics, we find "Analysis of Balances", "Analysis of National-Economic Balances and Synthetic Questions of Accounting and Statistics", and "Mechanization of Accounting". The eighth and last semester is divided between work in government departments and organs of the Gosplan, and the writing of a thesis (diplomaya rabotaya).

Cordial Greetings to all,

K.M. ~~W~~/g

- 1: For this fact I am indebted to Jacob Miller.
- 2: Since the plan is given in total number of school hours per semester, description in terms of courses is somewhat misleading. An added complication is the fact that the Soviet week consists of six days, five of which are working days. There are thus five weeks in the month. Courses vary from one hour per week to eight hours (mathematics in the second semester), but most of them lie between two and five hours, e.g. foreign language, three; dialectical materialism, 4; physics or chemistry, 5. A simple calculation from the total number of hours planned per semester indicates that the student spends six hours per day, five days out of six in classes, discussion seminars, laboratory work, and physical education. This

19 Gordon Street
London, W.1.
February 24, 1938

Dear Mr. Blucher:

It was very pleasant to get your question about my letters of December 10 and 18, and it would be a still greater pleasure to be able to give a satisfactory answer. Discretion dictates a simple "I don't know", since what is required is a detailed description of planning activity alongside that of the system of training. The completion of these tasks, to say nothing of getting the knowledge organized on paper, is still well in the future. Nevertheless, it is tempting to enlarge a little on the letter defining planning (Dec. 18). With this and a second letter on the training of planners (February 15) as bases, it may be possible to say one or two things.

Taking the definition of planning as given in italics on Dec. 18 we might call the planning done in the U.S.S.R. socialist soviet national planning. "Socialist", because it is the planning of an economy in which all production goods are public property--or at least subject to control. "Soviet", because of the existence of a single highly disciplined party forming the backbone of soviet democracy as outlined in the New Constitution. "National", because the planning includes all the activity of the country but is limited to "socialism in one country". From the planning point of view, the important point is that the government is in a position to control all productive activity in the widest sense. Outside its control lie only individual actions (which for groups of people can be statistically largely controlled or predicted), natural phenomena (largely predictable statistically), and foreign factors (more uncertain). In terms of the definition of planning in general of December 18, the "measurable quantities" are those (largely indices) indicating amounts and distribution in time and space of capital and consumption goods and services, money, wages, prices, population, consumptive demand, etc. etc. Not all of these are independent of course. The "advance decisions" are made by a complicated process of consultation between groups and individuals, almost every individual and group having some part to play. These decisions are made on the basis of the current situation and are constantly changed. "Controlling the set" is accomplished by orders, usually in the form of quotas, as to the values of various quantities. It seems that more than the minimum number of quantities are directly controlled (the values of two dependant quantities are both settled by order), it being insured through previous (and constantly changing) calculations that "balance" will be maintained.

In the way set out vaguely above, the Soviets attempt to control the life of the country so as to accomplish certain ends. The broad objective of advancing through socialism to communism is expressed in constantly changing objectives for smaller and smaller

periods of time. Similarly, the national plans for each time period are expressed in smaller and more detailed plans for each regional and industrial (in a wide sense) subdivision of the country--reaching finally the village soviet and the small shop. Thus we have a whole series of plans for different lengths of time, for each division of industry, and for each governmental subdivision. Each plan must be integrated in the containing plan in time and in the horizontal (economic administrative) and vertical (governmental regional) structures. All plans must be reported on and changes introduced so as to preserve equilibrium. The function of the planning personnel, which exists at each level and at each point in the vertical and horizontal structure, is to report on the carrying out of the plans, draw up possible plans and otherwise supply advice to administrative and legislative organs (though these two are usually merged in the Soviet Union), and make the necessary modifications to ensure "balance". Though most of the work seems to be technical and advisory, decisions being actually carried out by the administrative organs, at each stage the planning personnel takes an important part in policy formation--final power lying of course in the hierarchy of legislative-administrative individuals and bodies.

Referring now to the question as to whether the type of training described in my letter on the Institute (Dec.10) and continued in the letter of Feb.15) equips the student to do the kind of planning defined in the letter of Dec. 18 (and enlarged upon here), I think the above indicates roughly the sort of work required of a planner in the U.S.S.R. Clearly this "planning" includes most of what we would call accounting, statistical reportage, or research, things which lie outside my definition of planning in general, though they are of course essential to planning. The training of the clerical and semi-clerical accounting-statistical personnel does not concern us here, but rather the appropriateness of the training offered by the Institutes for preparing planning personnel for leading positions requiring highly complicated analytic and synthetic judgements, e.g. at a given point in the structure, integrating the plans of subdivisions into a whole which will in turn fit into the plan of a bigger unit. The top men in Gosplan have to make such decisions for the entire national economy. In order to evaluate the training system for such jobs, we would have to take into consideration not only the school training but also the study and experience after entering service. Even so, final judgement must be reserved until enough time has elapsed for some of the graduates of these institutes to work up from subordinate positions. At present the leading posts are held by administrators of wide and varying experience. Many of them have been taken from business or government posts, given a special course at an Institute in Moscow for this purpose, and introduced into leading posts in the planning organization.

With best wishes and greetings to all at 850,

Kenneth May

London, England
February 24, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

To write about "studies" at this juncture is not very easy, because they consist largely in looking up words in a Russian-English dictionary. Mr. Raffi, with whom I am taking one hour of reading, two of conversation-reading, and one of composition turns out to be a very good teacher and a pleasant personality. Incidentally, among the motley group studying Russian is the (a?) daughter of Madariaga. Most of my work on Russian is done outside class. As a rule, I spend the morning on it--first the interesting little reading on the back of the day's leaf of my Russian desk calendar and then some interesting book. I have just finished "The Plan and Our Problems" by Molotov and am beginning "Politgramota" ("ABC of Politics" would be a loose translation). During the last month my reading speed has more than doubled.

Referring to my letter of last October 5, I see that the above explains how the first objective is being approached. Not so much has been done in statistics. At L.S.E. it was suggested that, instead of taking lectures, I get acquainted with statistical sources and methods. Accordingly I am browsing in the Statistical Library. The first book I read was Secrist's "Introduction to Statistical Method". Now I am using Bowley's "Elements" for a general review.

Next to Russian in time consumed, and overlapping it to some extent, comes reading in "the field of general planning and Marxism". I am usually in the process of reading one book from each of the following: Economics, Marxism, Russia (e.g. Pares "My Russian Memoirs"), England (e.g. Carr-Saunders "Social Structure of England and Wales"), and Planning (largely in connection with the S.U. by means of the books collected there). Sampling of periodicals and careful reading of the Times and the Daily Worker (and as my Russian gets better, also Pravda) I consider part of the daily routine. In connection with Planning I am attending Turin's lectures on the U.S.S.R. Unfortunately, they are poor--particularly in his handling of statistics. Schwartz's course on Joint Stock Company Legislation is very interesting. The fact that Allen (Mathematical Economics) and Lerner have gone to America leaves this as the only course at the L.S.E. which I attend regularly until next semester, when there will be several more.

The above should serve as a rack upon which to peg some future letters.

Cordial greetings,
K.M.

P.S. Baster's book and the requested magazine are on their way. I have reached Mrs. Crane and look forward to seeing her again. Miller tells me that Habicht has had a bad fever, but otherwise things are looking up. The answer to Blucher's letter is enclosed. Today Howard and I had lunch with Bernal (Crystallography and Science-and-Society). Thru mutual friends I had seen him several times before and developed a very high opinion of him. Taking everything into consideration, he seems to be one of the minds now roaming the tortured earth.

KM...WSR...24...Personal

file

London, England
March 3, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Last week end was spent in Oxford, finally looking up some of the people to whom I had introductions. Chats with Montagu Harris (Lecturer in Public Administration at Oxford) and John Cripps (son of Sir Stafford and working in the Institute of Agricultural Research) were interesting, but Jakob Marschak (head of the Institute of Statistics), to whom Professor Evans had written on my behalf, was a real find. Russian by birth, and various other nationalities by adoption, he was interesting to talk to quite outside statistics--though there too he made helpful suggestions. The Institute seems to be concentrating on three things; mobility and training of labour, public works in relation to unemployment, and monetary and investment factors in the trade cycle (under the catch word, "liquidity preference"). Marschak introduced me to the researchers in these fields and they were generous in taking time to explain what they were doing. He introduced me also to a man named Hall at Trinity, who has written a book on Soviet planning. A. J. Brown, the "liquidity preference" man, invited me to lunch at All Souls, which as you know is a very big college with no undergraduates and almost no faculty--just a half dozen fellows most of the time. It seems to be somewhat like the Junior Prize Fellowship business at Harvard.

Tuesday night I arrived back in London to find that your telegram had arrived just after I left on Saturday--next time I shall leave a forwarding address. "WOULD YOU LIKE LETTER REGARDING BOOK CLUBS PUBLISHED=ROGERS". I answered by night letter, "GLAD SEE PUBLISHED WHATEVER CONSIDERED WORTH IT STOP COULD REVISE TWENTY ONE OTHERWISE ASSUME YOUR EDITING ACCORDING HOW PUBLISHED GREETINGS=MAY" As a matter of fact, I should be glad to see some of my efforts in print so as to know how they appear in that form. However, of all the letters so far, 21 was the most hastily written.

Enclosed is the report on expenditures for the period Nov. 22 to Feb. 28. Although living expenses are high (very high) in London, I expect to spend a more reasonable amount on food during the next months.

By the way, in a recent letter you said that you would be along late in the spring. Am I correct in thinking this to mean the end of May? Dad is coming about that time. The next term in London does not finish until the end of June.

Cordially,

KM
Kenneth

London, England
March 9, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

When an orthodox economist writes a book called "Capitalism versus Socialism" with the latter coming out on top--that's news. When this economist is A. C. Pigou, leading British economist and attacked by Keynes as the standard bearer of the "classicists", then perhaps we may be permitted to wonder what the world is coming to. Appearing simultaneously with Barbara Wootton's "Bament for Economics" and not long after Keynes's "General Theory" which repudiated "classical" ideas and favored what might be called controlled capitalism, Pigou's little book raises a host of questions of fundamental importance in the economics of capitalism, socialism, and transition. Quite outside its topical interest, it is one of those books which must be checked through in future by some one writing seriously in this field.

The author limits himself to what he considers the business and competence of the economist--"to set out in an orderly way the dominant considerations, in so far as they are economic, which are relevant to the argument." This limitation should be kept in mind, for Pigou's general conclusions are based partly on non-economic factors. It is evident that the Webb's "Soviet Communism" has had a good deal of influence. The U.S.S.R. is taken as the socialist state, England as the capitalist one. Clearly the impetus for the book comes from the existence of socialism in a predominantly capitalism world. References to current facts are refreshingly frequent, although the author does not abandon hypothetical, abstract methods.

Capitalism is defined as follows: "A capitalist industry is one in which the material instruments of production are owned or hired by private persons and are operated at their orders with a view to selling at a profit the goods or services that they help produce. A capitalist economy, or capitalist system, is one the main part of whose productive resources is engaged in capitalist industries." The corresponding definition of socialism runs: "A socialized industry is one in which the material instruments of production are owned by a public authority or voluntary association and operated, not with a view of profit by sale to other people, but for the direct service of those whom the authority or association represents. A socialized system is one the main part of whose productive resources are engaged in socialized industries." However, he adds that central planning for the common good "is now generally held to be among the essential features of socialism." The author then proceeds to compare the two systems relative to Distribution of Wealth and Income, Allocation of Production Resources, Unemployment, Profit and Technical Efficiency, and the Problem of Incentive. On the second and fourth counts it is a draw. The other decisions go to Socialism. However, "this by no means settles the issue. For the problem of organization is extremely formidable." This brings him to the most important part of the book for some one interested in planning. Without mentioning the considerable literature concerning the alleged impossibility of planning, Pigou comes out in direct opposition to the views of von Mises, von Hayek, and followers. He concludes that the

thing can be done "in principle", that the difficulties are not theoretical, but practical. At the same time, he underlines the "appalling" practical difficulties, which would make "complete success altogether out of the question." As regards the problem of investment, approached from the point of view of the place of interest, the conclusion is that "a priori that in this field socialist central planning will produce situations less favourable to general well-being than capitalism would do."

In the final chapter, the author takes a deep breath and unwillingly walks the plank of decision. Although "the considerations set out in the foregoing chapters are inadequate to determine our practical choice between capitalism and socialist central planning. Nevertheless, having equipped ourselves with the relevant knowledge, we must use these imperfect data as best we may, and take the plunge, and judge." His judgement is that socialism is desirable and should be reached by gradual modification of the capitalist system through democratic means. First steps would be nationalization of banking and key industries, increased social services, and heavier taxation on income and inheritance. Though very interesting as the confession of a classical economist gone Fabian socialist, this does not have the scientific importance of the body of the book since he does not go into the sociological and political factors involved in the problem of transition.

The importance of the book lies in that it gives a popular demonstration from an orthodox point of view (non-Marxian would be putting it too mildly) that on economic grounds socialism is preferable to capitalism. It is amusing to note that socialism wins apparently because it appears that the advantages of free competition (the classic ideal) are more likely to be realized under socialism than under capitalism itself! It would be rather a jolt after all these years to find that the beautiful theoretical structure of free competition theory is more relevant to a collectivist than a capitalist economy! This and many major and minor points in the book are open to dispute and certainly development, but in any case Pigou has clarified the economic issues involved in the central question of the day--the control and ownership of the means of production--, and advocates of the economic superiority of capitalism must refute his arguments or retire from the field. It is more likely that they will do neither.

Cordial greetings to all,

K.M.

P.S. Received Brodie's letter of the 1st. and enclosure.

file

Houston, Texas
March 19, 1938

Dear Kenneth:

Your letter of March 3rd has just caught up with me here. I am glad to know that you are finding interesting people. They supplement books and one's own thoughts. You and Howard might well consult on finances, if you are not receiving adequate amounts I should like to know the facts promptly.

In Berkeley I had several pleasant talks with your father and he went out of his way to be helpful. From Berkeley I went to Los Angeles and from there to Palm Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Crane are fairly well. He, despite the fact that he will be eighty this year, is planning a trip to Egypt.

There will be a semi-annual meeting of the trustees of the Institute on April 28; I should like to receive before that date a fairly full statement in regard to your present activities. Please tell Howard that I want one from him also.

I am continuing my quest for talent. While I have no one definitely in mind at the moment, I am confident that in due time I can find a couple of promising young men who will prove to be acceptable colleagues to you and Howard.

I now expect to be in London early in May.

Cordial greetings.

Arosa, Switzerland
March 26, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The universities are now deserted for the "Easter Vac". Sherry parties give way to reading parties--the traditional way of getting done the work which was neglected during term by going off with a trunk of books to some quiet spot in the country. However, for an American a vacation is a holiday, and in this case an opportunity to get away from London's damp sootiness. So here we are in a little chalet at the top of the open valley. Only occasional clouds block the spring sun which is doing its best to melt the snow and to keep me warm as I write this on the porch of the woodshed.

"Chalet" suggests the primitive hut, but this is not that sort. Small it is--about the size of a little suburban home--and finished on the outside in rough timbers with cheerful blue shutters. The furniture is rather quaint and correspondingly weak--as I found to my cost when I leaned back to hard in one of the chairs. Each morning we are wakened by the sound of a little organ with which the hausfrau accompanies herself in religious song. There is even an old wall clock which ticks away all day without moving its hands from whatever hour (or "impossible" position) at which we have placed them. But then one notices that the ceiling is held up by a steel girder. Central heating, an electric range, instantaneous hot water, and the sight of the housekeeper cleaning with a very chic vacuum cleaner remind one that modernity ~~XXXXXXXX~~ has penetrated to little houses beyond the reach of the automobile.

Perhaps a few scraps of gossip about the situation in Europe may be in order, possibly interesting in connection with European news in American papers, which incidently on the whole are probably more informative on this matter than the English. The latter while quite "free" ^{we} is always in "good taste" (I am speaking of respectable papers) and often agree in a gentlemanly way not to print anything which it is suggested is not in the national interest.

The series of crises to which Europe has been subjected and the constant underlying danger of war constitute a heavy emotional strain on people here. Of course, most people get used to it and become excited only by the most spectacular events. The implicit question in discussion is "When and how will war break out?". The fact that no one can know the answer does not prevent people having feelings about it. Sometimes they decide the question merely to have something to hold on to. Although the conservative press (or rather all but the most radical) assures that there is no danger of war--one paper said for 25 years--and although the left hopes to bring about an overpowering peace movement and alliance of the democratic powers which might reverse the trend, every day that passes sees war preparations more advanced and accelerated. It is no joke to key up a national economy to war preparations and to bring into play the appropriate propaganda measures. To stop war preparations--particularly in Germany and Italy, but also in England--would have the most serious internal effects. Nevertheless, what will happen is no foregone conclusion, and in the manoeuvring among various groups within and between states what the British government does has pivotal importance.

The recent crisis in Austria has been used by the National Government and its supporters as an argument for isolation and further rearmament, though the same events have been pointed out by the opposition as finally discrediting Chamberlain's policy and showing that collective security is the only road to peace. One illustration of the type of propoganda current: On Sunday before last, a very large demonstration was held in Trafalgar Square by the International Peace Campaign and various other liberal and pacifist groups. The meeting was violently anti-Government, for collective security, against cooperation with the fascist dictators. It was followed by an attempt to march to the German embassy which was skillfully and almost peacefully deflected by the "bobbies". A few nights later I saw a newsreel (British Gaumont) of Hitler's march into Austria followed by what was called "and Britain's Answer". This began with a flash of Chamberlain and another of the demonstration. The running commentary was to the effect that the Prime Minister's statement and the demonstration show the united determination of the British people to speed up rearmament and defend herself. Then followed pictures of armament production and the fighting forces with comment of a jingo type and the playing of "Britannia rules the waves.."

Not a few believe that the conservatives are thoroughly sympathetic with Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco and only wish that they would do things in a little more subtle way. This combined with their dislike of popular front governments is suggested as an important factor in a policy which to some seems suicidal. Going a step further, some people find British policy understandable as the defense not of the British people, but of British business interests whether threatened by foreign competition or popular movements at home. They suggest that this policy is made and carried out largely by permanent officials, who while supposedly non-political are by training and careful choice the faithful, honest, and capable servants of the British upper classes. While some bemoan England's return to power politics, others point out that she never abandoned them, that since the war she has been strengthening Germany in order to weaken France. They go on to say that the present state of affairs is due to her being too slow to realize that the tables are turned and that it is now France's turn to be strengthened in order to maintain "balance".

Although there is much resentment against the government, and certainly the people do not share the pro-fascist sentiments of many conservatives, it seems likely that a change, if it comes, will arise from a split within the Conservative Party itself. The Eden affair was only a reflection of conflicts which have been kept from breaking out into open revolt only with the greatest difficulty. The conservative opponents of Chamberlain's policy do not disagree on the fundamental goal of defending British imperial business interests, nor are they any more soliticitous for democratic movements at home or abroad, but they think that Chamberlain has gone too far in giving way to the dictators and in particular by allowing the fascists to seize Spain. The trade union leadership and for the most part the Labour Party is so dominated ideologically by the more conservative parties and so desperately afraid of militancy that there is little likelihood of the potentially overpowering forces of Labour being utilized in any decisive way in the near future. There are the beginnings of a movement which might bring this about, but at present Labour only tries to take advantage of the situation to get minor concessions of policy.

For the present it looks as though there would be a period of consolidation before Hitler or Mussolini make another move--with the exception of Spain which must be considered as a move upon which they are exerting great energy. To continue to carry out "Mein Kampf" according to schedule means an eventual major collision. Feeling that time works against him, Hitler may decide to start a "big push" this summer, or he may try for further small gains by peaceful blackmail. What will happen depends upon the information reaching the various general staffs and governments concerning the equipment and moral of the various parties. Since some of this may be misinformation, it is difficult to predict even if in possession of what one considers the correct information.

Beginning April 6, I shall be carrying on at a new address: Apt. 286, Russell Court, Woburn Place, London, W.C.1.

Cordial Greetings to all,

K.M.

KM...WSR...27...Report

Flat 286, Russell Court
Woburn Place, London W.C.1.
April 20, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Since March 9 my letters have been almost lacking. Dashing off on a vacation and then getting settled here on returning made any letters I might have written seem pointless. However, now that I am back at work I shall take up the thread again.

Your letter of March 19 from Houston was waiting for me when I arrived back here April 7. A piece or two of bad luck, getting settled in my new quarters, and getting back to work have been my only accomplishments in that time. The new term begins in a week, but before that time I plan to go to Oxford (whose term begins on the 22nd) and try to look up the people on the list which Brody sent. During vacations one can get little done here in the way of seeing people, except by chance. Hence I have been using the time to get as much reading done as possible.

Before leaving for Arosa, Howard and I had lunch with Mrs. Crane and her son. It was very pleasant to renew the acquaintances.

About finances, the monthly check of \$200 is sufficient, but when I have paid my fees for the coming term I shall have no reserve fund. It might be well to have an extra \$100 to keep on hand so as never to be too near rock bottom.

It is good to hear that Mrs. Crane is still going strong enough to plan a trip to Egypt.

You requested a report of my present activities. The following is intended to fill the need. It should be taken in conjunction with KM..WSR..2 (outline for the year) and KM..WSR..23 (description of my work during the last semester):

In general I am continuing my studies by means of my own reading supplemented by contacts with appropriate people here and by a few lectures.

In Russian I am almost to the goal outlined at the beginning of the year--to finish the spade work. During the two weeks in Arosa, in non-skiing time, I read over 300 pages of politico-economic Russian. Since returning I have been working on "Statistika", the standard text on the subject, and plan to finish it in the next few weeks. I am continuing my reading of the daily page of the Russian desk calendar and plan to read a few of Chekov's short stories each week. In addition to this, I shall go on with courses in translation and conversation at the School of Slavonic Studies.

In Statistics, during the last term I did not do as much as I had planned. Now, however, I am working with Bowley's text and the above Russian one as well as books on labour statistics etc. I plan to spend considerable time in the L.S.E. library and shall consult

Fisher, Pearson, and others in the field. I shall probably attend one or two lectures at University College. Studying the Russian and non-Russian texts together is already proving very interesting.

In the field of General Planning and Marxism my work will be oriented around three centers. First, courses at the L.S.E.: "Problems of a Collectivist Economy" (Hayek), "Economic Planning in Theory and Practice" (Durbin), "Contemporary British Economic Problems", (Gregory, Plant, Robbins), and "Administrative Law with special reference to Public Utilities and Industry" (Robson). Second, the reading of "Capital". And third, periodical material such as that of P.E.P. (Political and Economic Planning).

Outside of the above work in London, I plan to take several trips to Oxford and Cambridge, meeting new people and following up previous contacts. I hope also to find time to take a trip to Wales. I am continuing explorations of London--afoot, by bus, and seated in theater or restaurant.

With cordial greetings and best wishes to the trustees,


Kenneth May

P.S. The next ("Summer") term begins about April 28 and end June 28.

London, England
June 8, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

They certainly keep their horses well here. The other day there was held the annual parade of cart horses near Regent's Park. This was no show of curiosities; the horse is still giving the gasoline engine a good run for its money. As a matter of fact, for short hauls and work involving frequent stops the horse is much cheaper than the truck, even when we add the 10 shillings a week to the boy who sits on the back of the wagon to see that nothing falls off. Each Whitsun the companies repaint and decorate some of their wagons, choose the best horses, pairs, or teams, and deck them with gaily coloured ribbons and the prizes of previous years. The parade makes a good outing for some of the drivers and their families, who take the place of the usual load of coal, beer, or what not.

Even in a fine new harness gaily decorated with flowers and medals, and well satisfied with his lunch from a fine new feed bag, the horse looks little better than during the week when he pulls his load with equal pride and vigour. Standing at one of the bridge-heads on the Thames, the horse lover could see a splendid parade any day in the week. Past him would flow an endless stream of these stalwarts hauling the goods of the Empire. But if the lover of horses would thrill at this display, a lover of men would be shocked at the contrast between horse and driver. It apparently does not pay to keep the latter in as good condition as the former. Even at Whitsun when he and his family dress in their best and picnic on the wagon waiting for the parade to begin, one cannot help but notice the difference. Of course it takes more than a sub-standard diet and poor living conditions to rob these Britishers of their traditional intelligence, fortitude and good humour, but one sees no prize specimens among them.

Recently public attention has been focused on the ill health of the people of England. The government has entered the field with a "keep fit" campaign. Everywhere one sees posters pointing out that "Fitness Wins". Well drawn blue and white posters urge the advantages of drinking milk, and throughout the country "milk bars" have sprung up. A large percentage of all advertising uses the theme, particularly for alcoholic drinks. Other measures for a "fitter Britain" include increased supplies of free milk to school children and the organizing of classes for "physical jerks". Just how much can be done for the driver of a coal wagon by these means is open to question. The 30 shilling a week waitress is hardly likely to jump at the opportunity to do physical jerks in the evening. Nor is the hard pressed house wife likely to divert money

from the almost exclusively starchy diet to vitamin containing foods, which, however healthy, will leave her children complaining of hunger. Much of the present activity seems of the "bootstrap aviation" variety, since an appreciable increase in fitness requires an increase in the standard of living not only through increased real money income but through better social services and facilities for recreation. However, this solution is not "practical" at present, what with the armaments race and gloomy business predictions. How can you raise the standard of living of a country when you have unsold goods piling up in the warehouses and almost two million workers anxious but unable to work to produce even more?

Cordial greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M/S' with a flourish underneath.

London, England
July 11, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

"A good meeting", someone remarked the next day. "The first time we've had a hearing for some time." Perhaps the Unionists had a right to be pleased, but even in Barnsley--a solid mining town--one would hardly expect a by-election meeting such as the unfortunate National-Liberal candidate had to address that night.

Interrupting a series of reverses for the "National" Government, the last two by-elections had gone heavily against Labour and Liberals. Everyone knew Barnsley was a safe Labour seat--especially with a local check-weighman running against a London business man. Still in the debacle of 1931, a National candidate had won, and at least a smaller majority for Labour would show doubters that the Government did have the support of all but the incorrigible. So the Telegraph noted "quiet optimism" in Conservative ranks, and "fears" in those of the opposition. The truth was that both sides were handicapped by the universal local assumption that Labour would win anyway. Any one who attended the National-Liberal candidate's last big meeting might have guessed that Labour's majority would be increased as it was.

Imagine a dingy theater-like hall packed to overflowing, mostly miners with typical kerchief around the neck, but a sprinkling of shopkeepers, and a few substantial citizens. This is a meeting for the National-Liberal candidate and one would expect his supporters to be there. (The uninformed lump National-Labour, National-Liberal, National-Conservative, Unionist, and Conservative together and occasionally a tired speaker from Conservative headquarters fails to make the nice distinction.) It is true that the entire audience awaits his arrival impatiently, but by far the greater number pass the time in heckling the speakers who are filling in while the candidate completes engagements in other parts of the constituency. And such heckling--sarcastic, ridiculing, angry, and prankish by turns but always quick, keen, and telling. Occasionally the entire crowd boos or laughs, but mostly it is a quick succession of individual thrusts from all over the audience without any star performers. They are bent not on breaking up the meeting, but on amusing themselves by discomfiting and discrediting Labour's opponents. This is their night. Tomorrow they will troop into the hall to listen undemonstratively to Labour's speakers.

Finally the candidate arrives and seats himself, amid mingled boos and clapping. The crowd is a bit hoarse by this time, and he is allowed to finish each sentence before being interrupted. It takes a superb temper and wit to speak against constant and scattered heckling, but the candidate and his colleagues stick to it with only occasional falterings. They cast about for every conceivable argument for the National Government, or sudden thrust to disconcert their baiters. Not once do they succeed even for a second. From somewhere in the audience and often in immediate unison comes an answer. Talk of the Empire as a great brotherhood brings immediate shouts "How about Jamaica?" Derisive attacks on the poor quality of the Labour leaders--loud laughter, boos, and shouts of "Go back to London". The old standby: anti-labour party quotations from former Labourites now with the National government--shouts of "traitor" and boos. A quotation from a socialist saying that he didn't care who won a war between England and Germany and the question "Is that right?"--"Ye-e-es". "Would arm sent out to Spain and China help us?"--Loud "Ye-e-es" ⁱⁿ unison. Protestations from one speaker that he ^{is} was a son of a worker ^{brought} stout clapping from the well-dressed first rows, and loud laughter from the rest. Terrific cheers for Eden when a questioner asks

why he was "sacked". "We are for peace"--"What are you arming for then?"
"Things have improved during the last years"--"How about the means test?!"*

Of course neither the platform nor the audience was consistent logically or consistently logical. The former were thrusting at the confidence of Barnsley in Labour, arguing for the National Government policy of "appeasement" abroad and "economic" social betterment at home. The latter were demonstrating their hatred of the National Government, their dissatisfaction with their lives, their sympathy with the people of Spain and China, and their almost blind faith in the Labour leadership. When we remember the number of failures and setbacks in recent years--the General Strike of 1926 and the debacle of 1931, and the lack of vigour and clarity of the present leadership--the enthusiasm and wit of these sturdy Yorkshiremen is an amazing demonstration of dogged staying power which may yet surprise those who see England on the down grade as a world power.

A peppery old gentleman in the first row balcony--among the small minority who clapped at the right times--turns to a group of enthusiastic hecklers and says "A fine group of men, all you need is good leaders." They laugh derisively. A miner diverts his attention from the platform long enough to wave his red kerchief under the old man's nose. A shop girl directly behind him tells him to shut up. But a Yorkshire gentleman is as stubborn as a miner, and he keeps up his dignified "hear hear" accompanied by pounding with his cane. With mixed possessive pride and anger he says again "A fine group of men."

Cordial greetings,
Kenneth May

* The means test reduces unemployed pay according to the amount of money coming in to the family--leading, among other things, to the breaking up of families. The term is a symbol for the grievances of those on relief.

KM...WSR...30.1...Personal

London, England
July 12, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The enclosed letter is one of several which should have been written and sent off long ago. Two months of dashing about for the Ambassador, seeing Dad, and thinking over plans for next year have led to my neglecting things badly.

By tomorrow I shall have a letter in the mails ^{reporting on the last weeks,} telling you my plans for ~~the next weeks~~ and suggested plans for the coming year.

Please pass on my greetings to all.

Kenneth May

P.S.: Could you have numbers 18 and 21 (Left Book Club) sent to John Strachey, 112 Regent's Park Road, London, N.W.1?

Also I should like John Strachey (address as above) and J.G. Crowther, 23 Russell Square added to list D.

The following new addresses indicate necessary corrections:

- ✓ Bocqueraz (C) : % Guaranty Trust Co., Place de la Concorde, Paris
- ✓ Bishop (B) : 119 Grace ave, Great Neck, New York
- ✓ Bresch (A) : % Department of Mathematics, University of California, Berkeley, California.
- ✓ Galbraith (D) : % Department of Economics, Harvard University
- ✓ May, R (A) : ~~XXXXX~~ 721 B. Coventry rd, Berkeley, California.
- ✓ Miller, Jacob (A) : 52 Boundary rd (from 43 Boundary rd), London NW8.
- ✓ Raymond (B) : 860 Park Ave, New York City.
- ✓ Wilson (B) : 464 Spruce St., Berkeley, California

London, England
July 12, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The weeks after our last meeting I spent on the Ambassador's project--a most interesting, but tiring task. Just before he returned to America I presented my first report. He urged that I keep on with the same sort of observations for another month. I agreed, but found that I had to take time off to keep my own affairs in order. During the last weeks I have taken a good rest and thoroughly thought out and talked over plans for next year.

The most important thing which emerges is that next year must be one of concentration for me, as opposed to this last year of extensive dabbling. I consider the latter valuable, but now it is time to choose one project and carry it through--whether it be some definite task in Russian or planning, the continuance of my mathematical training in some specific way, or some definite work for the Ambassador. Furthermore, this work should be so organized that I know what I am accomplishing and why, and have some idea of where it is leading. Secondly, spending the year in America does not seem so important, although there is no objection if that seems the best thing. The fact of definiteness, not the locale, is the important thing. The third thing is that though I do not expect to spend my life in pure mathematics, I can still afford to do more work in mathematics and must do so if I am to take my Ph.D. through the University of California--certainly the easiest and quickest way.

With this in mind, Evans' suggestions for work in Paris have a great deal of weight, since this seems the best juncture to finish up my Ph. D. in lieu of being able to work in Russia or some other equivalent opening. In this frame of mind I had a talk with Crowther, whom I had seen some weeks before. He said that at the present moment France has great interest from the "science-and-society" angle and suggested that I concentrate on mathematical studies and follow up the other on the side. It seems that scientists are taking a very active and influential part in the present government and in politics generally, and he offered to give me letters to key people. Professor Neyman, in statistics at University College and going to teach at California beginning next year, supplemented Evans' suggestions about work in Paris. There are several men there in theory of probability and analysis--all top rank people--and these subjects are just the things I need. Professor Raffi, with whom I have been working in Russian made suggestions as to how I might carry on with it in Paris. Presumably at the end of the year I should be ready to write my thesis and get that out of the way. At the same time the year would not be wastes from the point of view of languages, and the science-and society business might be most interesting. At present I see no other plan with similar advantages.

Yesterday I talked again with the Ambassador before turning in a written report. He seems to think the project very important, wants to keep me at it for another year and to put several other people under me. He requested me to write to you suggesting this as my definite work for the coming year and to let him know as soon as possible. However, whether we decide on this or not, I am taking a rest from it. As the Ambassador presented it, such a project in addition to being rather hazy would leave me farther away from getting my Ph.D. than now and does not seem to fit into any long term plan. However, I still leave it open as a possibility if these drawbacks could be removed.

The fourth thing which emerges is that I have decided to marry this summer. The decision rests on the conviction that, whereas marriage in general may be

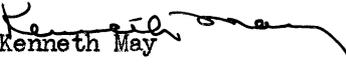
harmful to young men or to young men's careers in general, this particular marriage will be helpful as well as happy. Specifically, I shall be able to do better work for the Institute and develop more healthily. The more active and mobile my work requires me to be, the more necessary does it become for me to have this source of emotional stability and practical help. Neither of us wish to "settle down" as long as opportunities for further training, development, and activity are open. My wife (we plan to be married toward the end of this month) is on leave from her teaching, has means for the coming year, and can and will accommodate her plans to mine. She would not have to return to her teaching position, and I am confident that a year would show that the help she could render me would be worth the supplementary expense--though there would be no necessity for her to accompany me always. I should be glad to defend this position in person if and when you think best.

My immediate plans are to proceed to Paris about the end of the month to make further enquiries about studying there next year. The session does not begin until November. This leaves me time for preliminary work in France--and for a trip to New York when you think best. Under present conditions I do not think a short trip to the S.U. would be productive in my field. If time permits it might be interesting to compare present appearances with those of last November, but I am anxious to get started on next year's work as soon as possible.

Dad, who leaves here on the 22nd, plans to talk these matters over with you in New York. I am giving him a copy of this letter.

My kindest regards to the staff, who have probably thought kindly of me for saving them the trouble of distributing letters in the past weeks. Greetings to John and Howard.

Cordially,


Kenneth May

P.S.: I had a pleasant visit with Victor Clark one morning before breakfast when he surprised me in my flat. Howard and I had lunch with him a day or so later. He had me look up some people passing through from San Francisco--turned out to be the wife of one of California's regents and two charming young ladies.

N.B. In my last letter (# 30) I forgot to request that a copy be sent to the Ambassador. He might also be interested in some of the previous ones.

K.M...WSR...32...A

London, England
July 21 1938

17

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Summer has really come to London. The American Express is hardly recognizable--buried in the crowd of well-fed, washed, and pressed Americans. What a contrast with winter when the numerous mail windows seemed so unnecessary, and one noticed the pattern on the linoleum floor. An Englishman would have been at home there then, but not now in this transplanted bit of America. It is quite exciting to see hundreds of freshly laundered shirts, trousers with knife-edge creases, stockings that fit, and well-kept faces framed in tasteful coiffures. One has only to look at these people to see that their energy and good management were not left behind when they embarked on this expedition in search of buried culture.

But even more exciting to bump into one of them in some public place and find that his small town friendliness has not been left behind either. Only an American could say of an Indian student he had met, "Oh, he's a Bombay boy!" After being abroad for some months it is a shock at first to find a stranger immediately telling his vital statistics and plans for the future and expecting to share yours. Having become acclimated in a cellular society, in which such people are "insufferable", it takes a moment to realize that the clean-cut undergraduate who discusses his major with you and tries unsuccessfully to understand where yours "will get you", does not belong to a world in which every man is undesirable until proved worth knowing. On the contrary, to him every one he meets is a friend until the contrary is demonstrated. The American's garden spreads open to the street for all to admire and share; the Englishman surrounds his with a hedge past which only the select can go.

Of course, Americans are not the only sign of summer. In the long grey-blue evenings regimental bands play down to Londoners relaxing in the parks. Damp, it still is, but now a warm mugginess with an occasional cool breeze or a hot clear day. Macs and scarves give way to light cottons--and the cold sooty fogs seem as impossibly remote as sun and warmth did in midwinter. Hampstead Heath, after a bus ride through north London, looks like "the great open spaces". Surrounded as it is by the city, it still seems very quiet to the city dweller, for whom real silence would be discomfiting.

No doubt theaters are busy, sight-seeing buses full, and the proper places thronged with tourists. But for Londoners, this is the season to get out of doors after work. Some stroll in Regent's Park among the richly planted beds. Others rent boats on the lake. Many walk the streets which, monotonous and dirty as they are, seem pleasant on such long bright evenings. And some get only as far as the front steps or perhaps just to the window, from which they participate in the life of the street.

This is the season for vacations and Kings' visits, the harvest and beginning wars.

Greetings to all,

Ronald May
Kenneth May

P.S. (Personal) Yesterday I chatted with Julian Huxley and he made further suggestions for work in Paris. I find that there is to be a conference of the Econometrica Society at Kracow, September 18-21, one of the three main topics being economic planning. Perhaps this might be coordinated with a short time in the S.U., other things permitting. The Sierra Club of California writes asking that I attend a world conference of Alpinists in Prague, August 29-31. This, too, might fit in.

Monday I go to Paris, where my address is % American Express. I am hoping to hear from you before I make plans for the next months.

Paris, France
August 2, 1938

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The amazing thing about Paris is that it seems to be one of those rare things which live up to their slogans. Paris really is gay and beautiful. French food really is excellent.

Of course Paris is not really gay in the sense that "Gay Paree" is intended. That Paris is the city for Americans and English week-enders. The "gaiety" of Paris seems to be an easy-going, live and let live way of life, symbolised by the comfortable Parisian sipping his apéritif in a sidewalk café. Watch the traffic on the Place de l'Etoile from the top of the Arc de Triomphe. The great circle is filled with cars and people moving apparently without any system, save that no one dares to go around the circle in the wrong direction. There is abandon in this catch-as-catch-can method of driving. One remembers past drives in taxis--the changes of pace and direction reminiscent of a halfback running a broken field. The protracted, volcanic arguments so dear to the drivers' hearts that they forget the existence of their fares. If two English cabbies had such an argument they would be really angry and likely to cause themselves indigestion, but the Parisian chauffeur goes on in an exalted mood. He seems to know how to get excited without exciting himself.

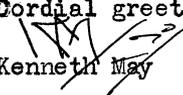
And the food! Every little restaurant has a soup such as one might never taste on a tour of the best restaurants of another capital. A boiled potatoe in France is a delicious dainty instead of a soggy clod. And one never thinks he has had too much bread, though he may have eaten as many inches as he would slices at home.

In these days it is possible for a great city to be the most beautiful thing which man can build, or the most putrid and ugly, if left to chance. Paris is at least partly a planned city. Wide streets, tree lined boulevards, open squares, and many parks make it beautiful without essentially modifying the basic fact of overcrowding. But it is not only the monumental things which make Paris satisfying. The style of its buildings--large windows, varying heights, the characteristic sloping top storey, and building in blocks and around courts rather than in rows-- gives an impression of spaciousness and variety. Much of the dreariness of an English city arises from the attempt to maintain the pretence of separate dwellings under conditions of actual collective housing. Hence the rows of contiguous "houses" and that architectural monstrosity--the "semi-detached" house. The architect can hardly be blamed, for a row is the only possible arrangement under the condition that each house must give on the street. The Parisian may have to walk through a common court or staircase, but his home resembles far more a castle than the Londoner's, for though he may only occupy a small part of the building, he shares in all its size and amenities, even its beauty--a word which often applies to a block of apartments, but never to a row of houses. Once the ideal separate house, surrounded by its own spacious garden, begins to be squeezed in by its neighbors, the occupant loses the

advantages of separateness without gaining those of the collective. This may be an illustration of the general principle that once material conditions force the adoption of collective methods, the attempt to maintain private forms leads to the loss of individual values which can be regained only by seeking them anew in collective forms.

As M. l'Abbé said at lunch, Paris is like a furnace these days. Still it is a very green furnace, traversed by the quiet Seine. And if it becomes too hot there is always the metro or a library--both cool and both instructive.

Cordial greetings to all,


Kenneth May

Present address: % Mme. Carre, 75 Rue de Vaugirard, VI^e

August 3rd, 1938

Mr. Kenneth May,
c/o American Express,
Paris, France.

Dear Kenneth:

I returned here Sunday morning. While I was reading your letter of July 12th your father telephoned. Later on in the day he came in and we had a lengthy conversation.

"Concentrate on mathematical studies and follow up the other (science-and-society) on the side" doesn't appeal to me as a program for either subject is a full-sized man's job. However, I am not disposed to enter into a discussion of that aspect of your letter or of any other.

Taking the situation that has developed as a whole I cannot help coming to the conclusion that you have placed yourself outside the range of the Institute's interests. I am, therefore, left with no other immediate alternative than to suggest that you send in your resignation.

I am very sorry to take such a stand, but in view of the nature of our conversations in London and developments since, I see no other course open to me as Director of the Institute.

With best wishes to you in your marriage and for your future work, I am,

Yours sincerely,

WSR/fc

Director

file

Paris, France
August 13, 1938

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Your letter of August 3rd arrived yesterday.

I am sorry that you feel that my marriage has placed me outside the range of the Institute's interest. This last year has been a most interesting and instructive one for me. Please convey to the Directors my regrets at the termination of a stimulating acquaintance and my best wishes for the future of the Institute.

Let me know if any reports or other formalities are necessary. We shall be taking a short vacation before the beginning of the term, but American Express will always be a good address. This next year studying mathematics in Paris promises to be a valuable one.

With best wishes to you and the Institute fellows, I am

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth May
Kenneth May

file

September 2, 1938

Mr. Kenneth May,
c/o American Express Company,
Paris, France.

Dear Kenneth:

At a meeting of the trustees of the Institute, held August 31st, I presented your letter of August 13th and recounted my conversations with you and your father.

After some discussion the trustees voted to accept your resignation and to authorize the secretary-treasurer to send to you a check for \$200., which may be considered as an allowance for September, and to provide, at your request, funds to cover your return passage from Paris to San Francisco.

You will please send immediately a statement covering expenses incurred in connection with your Institute activities up to September 1st. You will also please send to me soon a general report covering your activities for the time during which you were associated with the Institute for presentation to the trustees at the annual meeting to be held in the fall.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

WSR/fc

May

September 9th, 1938

Hon. Joseph P. Kennedy,
American Embassy,
London, England.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

About a month ago Kenneth May's father returned here from England and told me that despite his efforts the young man was determined to marry an American school teacher eight years his senior and that the two planned to honeymoon during the coming winter in Paris, taking courses at the Sorbonne. Reading between the lines of the few letters that Kenneth had sent me, I had begun to suspect that his main attention was directed elsewhere than on the work he was doing for you and for this Institute.

I wrote him that, as he had obviously taken himself out of our picture, he had better resign. His resignation has now been received and accepted. I regret the denouement, and I hope that you have been in no serious-wise inconvenienced.

Another matter. We are sending two young men to spend the forthcoming academic year at Cambridge.

Thomas L. Blakemore, Jr., a recent graduate of the University of Oklahoma Law School, is to go there to study comparative law and Japanese. He hopes in due time to become expert on the law and legal institutions of the Far East, doing those of Japan first. His father is somewhat of a factor in Oklahoma democratic politics.

Phillips Talbot (biographical sketch enclosed) is to prepare for journalist work in India through taking the Course for Indian Civil Service Probationers. The managing editor of the Chicago Daily News recommended him to us and hopes to get him back some day.

Should occasion arise necessitating the young men coming to you, I want to be on record as having commended them to you as extremely promising young Americans who are undertaking work likely in time to prove of great public usefulness.

Still another matter. For several years this Institute has been financing a George Antonius. He is a Lebanese by birth; a Greek Orthodox Catholic; grew up under French and Arabic speaking tutors; attended an English preparatory school in Alexandria; is an honors graduate in mathematic science of Cambridge; acted, for several years immediately following the World War, as interpreter and aide to various British missions to the Arabic speaking countries;

Hon. Joseph P. Kennedy - - - - 2.

for a year or so was deputy minister of education for Palestine; for the last six or seven years has been moving about the Near East making studies of current affairs and gathering material for a history of the Arab revolt; knows about every one worthwhile in his part of the world and is generally considered as being extremely well balanced and informed. His father-in-law is the principal owner and the editor of Mokattam, a newspaper published in Arabic in Cairo with a circulation throughout the Arabic reading world and with a number of subscribers in the United States. The paper, as I get it, is Egyptian nationalist.

If your interests embrace the Near East in any of its major aspects, I am confident that you would find Antonius much worthwhile. Several of the officials of the State Department know him personally. He has been in Washington several times. His address in London is care of Oxford and Cambridge Club, Pall Mall.

I am sorry about the Kenneth May blow-up, but I don't know that there is anything I can do about it.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Yours sincerely,

JCR/fc
encls.

file

Paris, France,
(%American Express)
October 1, 1938

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed you will find the general report requested in your letter of September 2. At times during the past few days I thought I might be presenting it in person.

I was not certain just what you desired as a "general report" and the problem was complicated by the lack of general aim in the year's activities. However, I went on the basis of our conversation in New York a year ago in which you said that a report was to include "work done, places visited, and people seen".

In New York last year I remember your promising at the end of the Institute year a list of the contacts made by distributing my letters. Could you send me this? Around the first of March we exchanged telegrams concerning publication of one of my letters, I believe it was number 21. I should be glad to know whether it was actually published and if so where.

Life here is beginning to return to normal after the sudden outbreak of peace. Please pass on my greetings to Wiedemann and Hazard. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Gray

(Kenneth May...Institute of Current World Affairs)

GENERAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES, JUNE 1937-AUGUST 1938

INTRODUCTION

Although aims, plans and responsibilities were never precisely or completely defined, it is desirable to say something about them. In the spring of 1937 in discussion with Mr. Rogers and others, work with the Institute contemplated a study of planning in the Soviet Union by means of several years to be spent there beginning the next autumn. Although the immediate commencement of this project seemed unlikely by summer and turned out to be impossible for the year 1937-1938, the original plan remained as a hope for the following year, and the year's work was planned and carried out with this as the fundamental requirement. In addition to preparing other lines of activity in case the Soviet Union remained closed, I was supposed to take advantage of the opportunities for travel in Europe and residence in England. Hence the year was characterized by a mixture of various aims and requirements of a preparatory nature. (See Mr. Roger's letters of June 19 and July 24, 1937.)

CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT

At the suggestion of Mr. Rogers, I enrolled on June 21 in the Russian Seminar at the University of California. Before dropping the course after eight out of the ten weeks, I gained the intended fundamentals of grammar and reading. During the summer, I became acquainted with Howard Wiedemann, with whom I was to go to the Soviet Union in the fall.

So that I might be free to write my thesis, the University of California allowed me to take my preliminary examination for the Ph. D. in mathematics before leaving Berkeley. I therefore missed the last two weeks of the Russian Seminar and passed my examination on August 26.

On August 27 I left Berkeley for Chicago where I met Charles F. Axelson and Samuel N. Harper and took time to visit at the Public Administration Clearing House. On the way to Washington I detoured in order to see as much as possible of T.V.A. in the short time available. (See KM..WSR..Sept.5.) In Washington, I met Harold Moulton and had a short interview with Mr. Oumansky of the Soviet Embassy and another with Mr. Bohlen of the State Department. Proceeding to New York on September 8 I spent some days talking with Mr. Rogers and meeting various people connected with the Institute or my field of study (see KM..WSR..1).

On September 18 I left for England where I had ten days before going on to the Soviet Union on October 6. Since staying on in the Soviet Union had become unlikely, it had been agreed that England would be the next best place to spend the coming year--its principal advantage over other foreign countries being the absence of a double language problem. Hence during the time there I investigated possibilities of study at Oxford, Cambridge and London. The University of London was indicated by its superiority in Russian. I met George Antonius, who made valuable suggestions, and had interviews with

E.S. Pearson and R.A. Fisher in Statistics at University College, Alexander Carr-Saunders and R.G.D. Allen at the London School of Economics, and Sir Henry Bunburry at Political and Economic Planning. (See KM..WSR..2.)

Wiedemann and I travelled via Harwich, Esbjerg, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsingfors to Leningrad, where we arrived on October 11. In order to have as much time as possible in Moscow we spent only three days there. Besides the usual sightseeing, including a trip to Pushkino, I spent an afternoon visiting the Leningrad Planning Institute and talking with the director and some of his staff. (See KM..WSR..13.)

In Moscow I hoped to visit the planning organizations and institute and to make arrangements to remain for study. However, no progress was made in spite of the efforts of John Hazard and Hermann Habicht. Vinegradoff, at the foreign office, made it clear that the project was impossible at present but might be arranged later. Through VOKS I presented some letters of introduction and had interviews with Professor Lusin (mathematics) and with Professors Kolmogoroff and Slutsky (theoretical statistics) at the University. I made a collection of books for reading in England. Among the people met during the three weeks stay in Moscow were the American Ambassador, the principal secretaries and attachés at the Embassy, the principal newspaper correspondents, Albert Rhys-Williams, Spenser Williams of the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce, Anna Louise Strong, and Jean Schwert of the International Business Machines Corporation, through whom I saw some of the Soviet accounting equipment. Besides sightseeing trips and visits to the theater, opera, ballet and cinema I spent many days wandering about Moscow. (See KM..WSR..9.)

After witnessing the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the revolution we left Moscow on November 8, returning to England as we had come. During a few days in Stockholm I had interviews with Professor Gunnar Myrdal and Dr. Sten Wahlund, head of the Stockholm Statistical Office.

In my letter of October 5 to Mr. Rogers I had outlined the following program for work in London in case we had to return to England:

1. Russian. The first task, formal work to be completed.
2. Statistics. Increase training.
3. Planning. Read and attend lectures in planning, economics and marxism.
4. General reading and developmental activities.

The Michaelmas term was almost over when we arrived in London on November 19. However, I began attending courses in Russian and talked with Sir Bernard Pares and Professor Turin at the School of Slavonic Studies. For statistics I talked with Professors Rhodes and Brown at the L.S.E. and Fisher and Neyman at University College. At the London School of Economics, in addition to renewing old acquaintances, I talked with Dr. W. A. Robson (joint author of "Moscow in the Making"), Professor Laski, Professor Lerner and the graduate counselor. I had another visit with Antonius and made short trips in England to visit friends and relatives.

In the middle of December Wiedemann and I spent a day in Paris seeing John Hazard and George Antonius. (See KM..WSR..14.) At Hazard's suggestion I introduced myself at the American Embassy in London on my return and presented a letter of introduction to Colonel R. E. Lee. Christmas was spent

in Cambridge and the week following New Years, skiing near Geneva.

Upon arrival back in London on January 9 I began working on the program of activity outlined above. I took four courses in Russian but spent far more time on outside reading in Russian--usually half the day. I also listened to Russian on the radio. In statistics I followed the advice of those consulted and browsed in the statistical library at L.S.E. I attended Turin's lectures on the U.S.S.R. and a course by Schwartz at the L.S.E., "Joint Stock Legislation". Professors Allen and Lerner had unfortunately gone off to America. During the Lent Term (January 11-March 22), in addition to the above, I carried on systematic reading and talked with H. D. Dickinson (mathematical economics), Dr. J. D. Bernal (physicist interested in the relations of science to society), Colonel Lee, Sir Gwilym Gibbon (British Civil Service), Jakob Marshcak (Director of the Institute of Statistics at Oxford), Montagu Harris (Public Administration), H. R. Hall (Trinity, Oxford, author of a book on theory of planning), Max Nicholson (Secretary of Political and Economic Planning), and many others, most of whom had something to contribute to my specific studies or the general project. Mr. Jacob Miller, recently returned from more than a year with Gosplan, gave me valuable help in my studies of planning during this and the following term. (See KM..WSR..23 & 24.)

At the end of the Lent Term Wiedemann and I spent a fortnight skiing at Arosa. While there I continued my Russian and broke away from constant dependence on a dictionary. Arriving back in London April 7 I began work for the Spring Term which was to run from April 20 to June 28.

At the beginning of the Spring Term I dropped two of the four Russian courses I had been taking with Professor Raffi and substituted two advanced courses in translation at the School of Slavonic Studies. Sir Bernard Pares' class in Russian-English translation, containing such experts as S. Boyanus, editor of the most commonly used English-Russian dictionaries, proved to be particularly stimulating. At University College I began reading at the advice of Professor Neyman and attended lectures with Professors Pearson and Welch. At the L.S.E. I attended the following lectures: Durbin's "Economic Planning in Theory and Practice"; von Hayek's "Problems of a Collectivist Economy"; Gregory, Plant and Robbins' "Contemporary British Economic Problems"; and Robson's "Administrative Law with special reference to Public Utilities". (See KM..WSR..27) At Cambridge I had an interview with Maurice Dobb.

Between Mr. Roger's arrival on May 4 and his departure on May 20 we had numerous conversations concerning the work being done and general plans for future years. He informed me of the falling through for the immediate future of the original and broached the idea of a long term comparative study of planning. On May 13 he proposed that the Institute loan me to the American Ambassador, explaining that this would probably mean full time work for an indefinite period. On the sixteenth we talked with Mr. Kennedy, and Mr. Rogers later made suggestions on carrying out the investigation of English opinion which the Ambassador had requested. On May 19 I again talked with the Ambassador and had a final interview with Mr. Rogers. He was now somewhat doubtful about the project and suggested that I carry on my studies at the same time. This I attempted to do during the next weeks by reading in spare moments on trains and in hotels and attending lectures during the short periods when I was in London (Mr. Kennedy wished the data collected outside London). Beginning on May 17 with a trip to see the Aylesbury by-election, I visited various places from Lancashire and Yorkshire in the

North to Hampshire in the South, attending numerous meetings, talking with individuals, and following the by-elections at Aylesbury, West-Derbyshire, Staff6rd, and Barnsley.

I presented my first report to Mr. Kennedy on June 8. He was insistent that I continue for another month and I agreed. However, at the end of the month I made a short trip to Paris to see my father, in lieu of the longer vacation planned when he had arrived in England at the end of May. On July 11 I made my second report to Mr. Kennedy. He urged that I continue with the same work for the next year with the aid of several assistants.

Meanwhile I had been thinking and talking over plans for the coming year. On July 12 I wrote Mr. Rogers reporting the Ambassador's suggestion, telling him of my intention to get married, and suggesting that in view of the impossibility of working in the Soviet Union, this might be the best year to finish the requirements for the Ph. D. Since Professor Evans had recommended study at the University of Paris, I made further inquiries in London. (See KM..WSR..32, P.S.) On July 25 I was married and proceeded to Paris where I made further inquiries about work there and began my studies while waiting for Mr. Rogers' answer.

SUMMARY

As noted in the preliminary remarks, no unified accomplishment was contemplated or attempted. However, the year was not without results:

Russian: By summer I was able to read material in my field with comparative ease. During the spring and summer I read well over a thousand pages.

Planning: I became acquainted with the fundamentals of Soviet Planning, the economic theory of planning and marxism, and current developments in England.

Statistics: I increased my knowledge of the mathematical theory and of the practical methods.

Institute Letters: Of the thirty-three letter-reports sent Mr. Rogers after leaving New York, twenty-seven were written in the period October-May. The following is a brief classification:

Financial and Activity Reports: Nos.1,2,9,10,12,14,19,23,24,27,31. (11)
England and the Internation Situation: Nos.3,11,16,18,21,26,29,30,32. (9)
Soviet Union: Nos.5,6,7,8,13,22. (6)
Planning Theory and Economics: Nos.15,20,25. (3)
Others: Nos.3,4,16,17,26,33. (6)

Politics: I devoted some time throughout the year, and almost full time while working for Mr. Kennedy to observing social, economic, and political conditions. The resulting grasp of the English situation, however inadequate, would alone make the year worthwhile for me.

October 11th, 1938

Mr. Kenneth May,
American Express,
Paris, France.

Dear Kenneth:

Your letter of October 1st, with enclosure, comes just as I am leaving for Chicago and several places in between. I will read the report while enroute.

I thought your letter, I suppose it was No. 21, was worthy of being published, so I submitted it to Bruce Bliven, editor of the New Republic, who declined it.

During the past year I talked with a number of people in regard to your work, but no one, not already on the mailing list, wanted your letters until you had dug further in.

Will be glad to pass your message of greetings on to Hazard and Wiedemann.

Cordial greetings,

MSR/fc

file

Villa Racine
76 rue de Sevres, VII
Paris, France
24XII38

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This letter is to request that you add my name to Wiedemann's mailing list.

While following courses in Mathematics at the Sorbonne, I have been doing some work in mathematical economics. In attacking the problem of wages--or more generally, the distribution of income--I immediately found myself involved in problems connected with invention and other forms of technical progress. Quite unexpectedly, I find myself with one foot in Howard's specialty--although I am concerned primarily with only a small part of the tremendous field of his interest.

I think that his efforts would be of considerable value to me in my own research, I should be very glad to receive whatever relevant material he has or will put out. By the same token, I should be glad to receive the writings of any other Institute fellows who may work in the same field.

There are some things here in France that would interest Howard, and I am communicating with him directly in the hope of establishing a mutually helpful exchange. Division of labour is essential if one wants even to scratch the surface.

I suppose you noted, in the recent decree laws, the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ further work given to "le haut comite de coordination des recherches scientifiques" and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ connected bodies.

With greetings and best wishes for the coming year, which I hope you will pass on,

Sincerely,

Kenneth May

Howard: Pls note and return promptly. Am sending Kenneth your long memo. and your report on Ottawa. W.S.R.

file
January 23, 1939

Mr. Kenneth May,
76 Rue de Sevres VII
Paris, France.

Dear Kenneth:

This is a belated answer to your letter.
I regret the delay.

You have been put on Howard's mailing list. He writes me that he has heard from you. Antonius sailed from here on Saturday to go to London to be present during the sessions of the forthcoming Conference on Palestine. As later on he may be in Paris for a day or two I gave him your address. His book, "The Arab Awakening" is attracting wide and favorable attention. The English edition was published two months ago, but the American has just been put on sale.

Brodie is planning to be in Berkeley some time during February, and I have given him a note to your father.

It is good to hear from you. Write again soon.

Yours sincerely,

WSR/fc

file

Villa Racine
76 rue de Sevres
Paris, VII
141139

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Have you read Bernal's new book "The Social Function of Science" (Routledge, 1939)? If not, lose no time in doing so. I am sure you will find it the kind of book you feel should be written--comprehensive, ambitious, provocative. Although admittedly deficient on the social science side, Bernal lets fly with both barrels. The book might be considered as another Howard plan for the study of S. and S., but it also makes a daring beginning. In passing, I noted some 23 "tasks" (research problems, etc.) which would make fruitful and interesting work in the immediate future--if the personnel were available.

In the preface Bernal points out the extensiveness of the subject and says that even to handle a part of it would require "not only a general grasp of the whole of science but the techniques and the knowledge of an economist, a historian, and a sociologist". I think he goes too far, however, in stating that "To make an analysis of modern science itself has become a task far beyond the means of a single mind;.." Of course this would be true if we interpreted "analysis" deeply enough, or if we insisted that the "single mind" worked alone, but the mere fact that Bernal could write such a book without any more than an amateur acquaintance with much of the subject suggests what might be done ~~XX~~ by an adequately equipped person who went at the problem scientifically. An individual with proper skills in languages, mathematics, bibliographical and other research technique, and social intercourse could, I think, absorb the basic terminology, methods, and propositions of all the sciences (including the social sciences) and the techniques. Furthermore, sufficient grasp could be gained early enough in life so ^{that} the ~~summa~~ study could be put to some use. In such a task the researcher would, of course, make full use of all ~~the~~ reference techniques, travel, consultation, etc. But even without adequate aid and merely making use of existing mechanisms, one could go a long way. People think such a person is an impossibility simply because no-one has consciously gone about the job as an occupation. However, an individual who attempted such a thing could only succeed by choosing certain emphases, not as to subject matter, but as to attitude. Hence, the really desirable thing would be to have a small team of young men consciously working together for a comprehensive view of ~~XXXXXX~~ the world. Each one would be interested in everything, but each one would have a specialty (perhaps more a method of approach than a field). Such a group, or the individuals in such a group, could write not only stimulating but probably extremely valuable stuff, to say nothing of the other uses to which they might be put. Such a group would also be dangerous to existing institutions. However, if carefully chosen and allowed to lead as normal lives as possible while being given freedom to ~~X~~ take an active part in social and political life (for after all social science without participation is as impossible as physics without experimentation) the results could hardly fail to ~~XXX~~ be beneficial.

I am hoping to read Russian as fast by the end of the year as Ruth reads Italian. Have you read the third five year plan? It puts less emphasis upon consumers' goods than I expected. Molotov, while boasting about past achievements, pointed out that production per head of population was still below other countries' and put forward the slogan of surpassing the U.S. in this respect. It would be very exciting someday to have a competition between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. ~~in this respect,~~ but we shall have to wait until the American worker gets some assurance that his increased production is not going to be wasted.

I look forward to see^{ing} Antonius. ~~XXX~~

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kenneth May in cursive script, with a horizontal line drawn through the bottom of the signature.

March 2nd, 1939

Mr. Kenneth May,
76 rue de Sevres
Paris, VII
France.

Dear Kenneth:

Thanks for the suggestion about Bernal's book. It has been ordered, but thus far it has not been received. There were several points made in your letter of February 14th that proved stimulating to me. And I assure you that I relished the little jibe: "allowed to lead as normal lives as possible". Come again!

Professor Harper has definitely decided to sail for Russia on April 9th, taking a Polish boat. Hazard, who will be a visiting scholar at Columbia during April, plans to go to Russia early in May.

Here things have been considerably upset by the death of Mr. Charles R. Crane on February 14th. Brodie was in Palm Springs at the time. John Crane has returned here from Rome. On Sunday I accompany him to Woods Hole, Mass., where the burial is to take place on Tuesday.

I still plan to go to California a little later on. If I get to Berkeley I shall certainly look up your father and Evans.

Always glad to hear from you.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/fc

P.S. When we asked one Italian about the food situation in Italy (the bread tastes like sawdust) he replied that there was nothing to worry about. If he got hungry he had only to eat his suit! (Milk is being used to make artificial wool.) Another Italian, when asked about the meaning of fascism said simply, "It means this," and tightened his belt a couple of notches.

Villa Racine
76 rue de Sevres
Paris, VII
19 IV '39

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I was very sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Crane. He represented for me an outstanding exception to the rules about the lack of correspondence between wealth and ability to use it well. I am very glad to have known him.

Talbot called on me here over the Easter holiday, but unfortunately I was in Italy. He made quite an impression on the maid, however. She announced that "somebody very important" had called to see me. The mystery was cleared up by his card and a letter from England which had arrived after my departure for Italy. I shall hope to have another opportunity to meet him--and Blakemore, too.

It looks as though I shall have better luck with Hazard. Habicht has our paths crossing at Kiev. Apparently we have to go to the U.S.S.R. to meet.

Besides being my first real vacation--no books and a complete prohibition on routine--in three years, the trip to Italy was very interesting politically. A young couple finds it easier to get into conversations than the solitary traveller.

In spite of all the straws in the wind--or rather, logs in the hurricane--we are planning to leave for the S.U. early in June. We expect to arrive in New York July 14, and I hope to be able to have a chat with you before going on to Berkeley.

Having "finished" the Theory of Probability, I am now shifting to reading in Russian (statistics and planning) and to preliminary work on what may develop into a Ph.D. thesis in mathematical economics. However, to keep warmed up in math and to add a realistic touch in keeping with the world situation, I plan to delve into the applications of Probability to Ballistics.

With cordial greetings to everyone except Howard (who silently and steadfastly refuses to write me),

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth May

P.S. When we asked one Italian about the food situation in Italy (the bread tastes like sawdust) he replied that there was nothing to worry about. If he got hungry he had only to eat his suit! (Milk is being used to make artificial wool.) Another Italian, when asked about the meaning of fascism said simply, "It means this," and tightened his belt a couple of notches.

File

May 8, 1939

Mr. Kenneth May,
Villa Racine,
76 Rue de Sevres,
Paris, VII.

Dear Kenneth:

Thanks for your letter. I am glad to know that your work is progressing and you have arranged to go to Russia for another "look-see."

Harper, Hazard, Talbot and Blakomore are all due here about the time of your arrival. The trustees of the Institute have directed me to call a meeting at which they can be present for a general talk on the European situation. We would be delighted to have you sit in if it works out that you are hereabouts at the time.

Howard was here all of last week. He has finally decided that he wants to do the formal work for a Ph.D., starting perhaps this summer. While contrary to our general policy, the trustees authorized helping him out financially. He has not as yet selected either an institution or a particular theme.

Cordial greetings,

P.S. A cable has just come in from Harper from Moscow in which he states that he plans to remain there until June 5th at least.

WSR/hlap

Villa Racine
Paris
June 3, 1939

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for your letter. I should be very glad to sit in on an Incwa meeting while in New York. In any case I shall look you up when we arrive.

I am enclosing a leaflet announcing the first number of La Pensée--a french Science and Society. Its makeup is actually more ambitious, and Langevin is for France what Haldane is for Britain. If they keep up the quality of the first number while widening the circle of their contributors, the magazine will be tops in the field.

We plan to leave here next Friday, and are allowing for stop-overs in Germany and Poland. Plan to see John in Kiev.

With best wishes,

Cordially,

Kenneth May

(Address %American Express, London until July 7)

Memo: Kharkov Engineering-Economic Institute

to: Walter S. Rogers, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York City
from: Kenneth May, Department of Mathematics, University of California,
date: 22 VIII 39. Berkeley, California.

The interview from which the following data was gathered took place on June 19 at the Kharkov Engineering-Economic Institute. It was primarily concerned with previously prepared technical questions on planning procedure and theory. Indeed VOKS had arranged this interview only as a second choice to one at the local Planning Institute, which had closed for vacation. Altho it became evident during the afternoon that the Institute itself was more interesting than the topic, there was not time to take full advantage of this discovery. However, this memorandum is concerned solely with the Institute and not the other matters there discussed.

When the Intourist guide and I entered the director's office, two or three professors were already there. Others came as the afternoon progressed. Our language problem was complicated by both sides going over the head of the interpreter on technical points--particularly the Institute's professor of English and a very young instructor in Planning jumping the gun on the interpreter. Except for one older man, who was pointed out as a "great scientist" by my guide, the staff was very youthful, even the director looking comfortably this side of forty. The group was very friendly and frank, and seemed to be acquainted with non-Russian concepts and terminology in the planning field.

The Engineering-Economic Institute was apparently one of several operated by the Commissariat of Heavy Industry to train administrative personnel of a special type. The graduate is qualified as both an engineer and an economist and hence could become either a practicing engineer or a member of the planning personnel of a geographical unit (the "horizontal" planning structure). However, he is expected to take one of those jobs in industry which are both technical and economic in nature--among which would be positions in the planning staffs attached to each economic unit. Miller's statement, "Every business commissariat and cooperative union has a planning staff of specially trained economists and technicians" (Slavonic Review, April 1938), will have to be amended to read "specially trained technician-economists" and extended to cover smaller economic units down to the factory and the shop. It must be emphasized that this new profession of engineer-economist does not supplant the engineer strictly speaking nor the general administrator, but fills the gap between them. Altho the technically uneducated red administrator has long been on his way out, and there have been courses to educate economically and socially "illiterate" engineers, this Institute would seem to represent a big step in the methods of training industrial cadres.

Students enter the course at about 18 from the secondary schools. A good percentage are women (couldn't get exact figures). They may specialize in chemical, metallurgical, or mining industry,

and there is also a night course in economics for engineers on the job. Each specialty leads to a degree in five years. The part time students spend the last year in full time work. Besides the vacations, six months are spent in industry preparing the thesis required for graduation.

The program of study is graduated from the general and basic to the specific and technical. Mathematics takes first place in class hours; then come Marxism-Leninism, Dialectical Materialism, Physics, Chemistry. As the course progresses more and more technical subjects are added in engineering and planning appropriate to the specialty, until what looked like a pure science, philosophy, and economics course the first year has become more like the last year of an engineering school with the addition of selected commerce courses. In addition to the time spent in industry, almost half of the carefully planned hours (about 20 in 5 days followed by a rest day) are spent in the laboratory or practical work. Workers from outside are called in to supplement the institute staff--who themselves are expected to be in close contact with industry.

By good fortune the day of my interview was one on which students were "defending" their theses for the bachelor's degree, so I was afforded a sample of the Institute's product. This turned out to be a girl in her early twenties who had elected the metallurgical specialty. She had spent the last months around a Martin furnace which had fulfilled only 70% of its plan the previous year and her thesis was an analysis of this failure. Interestingly enough, the failure of the furnace was laid not on the operating personnel but entirely on poor planning of the layout, time schedule, order of operations, etc. After her exposition, which lasted about an hour and was illustrated with diagrams, floor plans, and time charts, her professor commented favorably on the paper and the general thoroughness of the student's work. Actually her talk had been characterized by overwhelming thoroughness and she even managed to become oratorical at times. Following her professor, an outside expert on the subject gave his opinion of the paper (favorable) and pointed out certain errors which she on the whole admitted. Other professors raised minor points and so the examination continued. The seriousness and professional attitude of all, including the audience of students, was impressive. It was evident that the candidate was being examined not for some formal knowledge or requirement, but for her working ability in a field in which she would soon be holding a job.

Whatever the answers to a number of questions one would like to ask, it is clear that the Soviets are making an attempt to train a type which has seldom existed in any country. Well grounded in the sciences both physical and social, and equipped with the intellectual and manual skills of industry, the "engineer-economist" represents in his person a step toward the abolition of the distinction between intellectual and manual labor.

2532 1/2 Benvenue ave.
Berkeley, California
23 VIII 39

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Incredible as it sounds, it has taken all this time to get fairly well settled--and my room is still piled with books as yet unshelved and the closet shelf with papers unexcavated. However, I located my notes on the Russian trip and a memorandum on the Kharkov Engineering-Economic Institute is enclosed. In case you are copying and distributing it, I should be glad to have it go to Evans, Sproul, Deutsch, Miller, Blucher, Crowther, Landauer, Brady, JD Bernal, % Mrs. Franklin Furst, 79 Perry st, New York City (his temporary address; permanent one is Birkbeck College, London), and to Dr. Jacques Solomon, % College de France, Paris.

The trip home was pleasant and uneventful. I turn out to be teaching a course in the mathematics of finance and one in analytic geometry and calculus. Neyman, in probability, his wife and the wife of a mathematical economist here all speak Russian, so I shall get some practice even if I don't listen in on Patrick.

Concerning finances: It was suggested that I apply the balance of last year (\$208.73) to the expenses of the trip home from Europe. It is difficult for me to say just what my expenses have been and also just what expenses belong to the homeward trip. However, the above amount is, in my opinion, a just one. I suggest that you clear my account by writing it off as the expense of the homeward trip. My regards to Mr. Brody.

When will you be coming West? I have already mentioned Blakemore to one or two people and look forward to seeing him when he comes out or through. I should be glad to receive his and Talbot's letters. Thankyou for Harper's memo.

With cordial greetings,

Kenneth May

fu

March 23, 1940.

Mr. Kenneth May,
2532 $\frac{1}{2}$ Benvenue Avenue,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

S. D. Kirkpatrick, editor of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, McGraw-Hill publication, has spoken to me and written to me in regard to a Dr. Karl Falk, 540 Lansing Avenue, Fresno, as a possibility for the Institute. Falk is teaching, as I understand it, in Fresno College. As I do not know anyone in that institution, I have no direct way of making inquiry in regard to Falk. If you know someone on the staff of Fresno College, please see what you can find out for me. If you do not, please ask your father or Evans to do so.

It now looks as though I shall be unable to get to California during the present academic year as I had hoped. I should be glad to hear from you as to how your work is getting on and as to your plans for next year. The trustees are interested in you and if the Institute can be helpful, they would like to know in what way. Their regular spring meeting is to be held in Chicago on April 27th and 28th. The two new trustees, Schultz, whom you have met, and O'Flaherty, managing editor of "The Chicago Daily News," are to be present.

About two weeks ago I saw Howard in Cambridge. Since then I have had several letters from him, mainly about two men who have been recommended to us by Harvard authorities. Howard seems to be enjoying his work very much and his "profs." speak very highly of him. As you perhaps know, the Institute continues to make him a monthly allowance.

As you receive their letters, you know that Talbot and Blakemore are full of business. Yesterday Antonius cabled from Beirut that he was leaving there for Cairo. Although he has written several letters only one has come through; evidently the censors like his communications so much that they wish to keep them as souvenirs - or evidence.

With cordial greetings and best wishes, I am

Yours sincerely,


2532 1/2 Benvenue ave.
Berkeley, California
30 III 40

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am asking both my father and Prof. Evans to inquire about Dr. Falk, and will let you know as soon as possible.

It is disappointing that you will not be out here. I should like to have a gossip session about the events of the last months-- and the next months! Talbot's and Blakemore's interesting letters come regularly. I sense in them a certain regard for the censors' interest in scenic as opposed to political descriptions. I am glad to hear that Howard is getting on. We communicate occasionally.

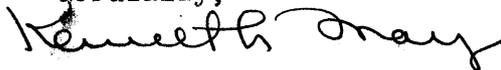
After inexcusable delays, I recently had a long chat with Prof. R. A. Brady (Econ department, courses in planning and related subjects). He turned out to be a very stimulating fellow, although our approaches and knowledge about the subject hardly overlapped at all. He is interested ⁱⁿ psychological, structural, problems, while I have stuck to technical, economic problems. I should have said "approach" rather than "problems", since the objects studied are the same. Although even his graduate seminar does not seem to offer anything very useful to me at present (because of the different approach and also because it seems to be more an introduction than an advanced study seminar) I look forward to keeping in touch with Brady.

As for my work: Besides being a teaching assistant, (pleasant though time-consuming), I am taking a heavy seminar with Professor Neyman on the theory of probability and Prof. Evan's seminar in mathematical economics. The former is most interesting, though I spend too much time in compulsory but badly organized lab work. For the latter I have been doing odds and ends, all pointing toward a thesis in mathematical economics, but not producing one as yet. Actually I have been spending most of my time in the field we chose to call planning in our conversations back in January 1937. It seems that ever since then, it is only the distractions which have changed. I plan to continue with this as my main work, and get by with a minimum of other activities. M.I.T. is or was considering me for a teaching job there, but I have been in no hurry to finish here, mainly because a "good job" would leave me less time for research than the lowly teaching assistantship which I plan to apply for again next year.

The Institute could help me greatly. My project is essentially a long term one, and if I am to devote myself to it fully I need a dependable source of income. Not only would regular financial help enable me to avoid detours for the purpose of immediate money getting, but it would make possible buying books, ~~XXX~~ travel, and making of helpful personal contacts. Association with the Institute would in itself be stimulating and it would enable me to plan my work on a long term basis. I intend to go ahead in any case, but such help would reduce the difficulties to those of the problem itself.

Please convey my greetings to Incwa-ites.

Cordially,



file

April 3, 1940

Mr. Kenneth May,
2532¹/₂ Benvenue Avenue,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

The trustees are to hold a meeting in Chicago April 27th and 28th to continue the discussion initiated at the Briarcliff Lodge session. I am wondering if you would like to participate. Travelling by overnight plane you would not have to be long away from work.

Hazard is coming, but Wiedemann is so engrossed in his work at Harvard that he should not spare the time. Hazard called up yesterday to say that a friend at Harvard had written to ask what sort of a person Wiedemann might be as he had received for a semester paper a mark of A⁺, an almost unheard of thing in the Graduate School of Philosophy.

Last week I had visits in Washington with Victor Clark and Harold Moulton and in Baltimore with Bowman. Both yesterday and today Moe and I were together at lunch.

Cordial greetings,

file

May 27, 1940

Mr. Kenneth May,
2532 $\frac{1}{2}$ Benvenue Avenue,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

Enclosed are two paragraphs copied from a letter to me from Parkin.

The man referred to in the letter, Serge Chermayeff, has just called on me. He is a charming person. As he is soon to make a motor trip in your part of the world, I have taken the liberty of giving him a note to you. Perhaps there is someone about the University who would be interested in him from the point of view of his profession.

Howard Wiedemann over the 'phone tells me that he has passed the Harvard Department of Philosophy preliminary examinations for a Ph. D. He did so at the first try, which I understand is somewhat unusual.

A man named Sly, statistician, head of the Princeton Survey and a member of the Princeton staff, who is a good deal of a fellow, says that he would like to talk with you the next time you are hereabouts.

Cordial greetings,

Memo re: Training for the "General Reporter"
to: Walter S. Rogers
from: Kenneth May
date: June 9, 1940

The question is: What should be the training of someone who is to report on--understand, predict, analyze--a complex social situation in the modern world. At first sight it may seem that specification of training and of method of reportage are the same. However, although we are trying to find a "best" type of training, one of the first observations to make is that there is no general method of reporting. There may of course be certain statements which can be made about reporting in general, but this whole discussion arises out of the inadequacy of any single approach in studying a complex situation.

There are plenty of people who can report a situation from the point of view of one of the scientific disciplines or established techniques. The mere fact that there is dissatisfaction with such reporting shows that a number of people have a point of view broader than a single discipline and see that a social situation involves factors which have been the preserve of many disciplines. It is my opinion that the important social questions of the day ("current world affairs") involve factors from every branch of knowledge--and involves them significantly enough to sterilize any reporting which fails to take this into account. Some way must be found to study a situation outside the point of view of any science. The method of pooling, coordinating, or "integrating" the "contributions" of different approaches misses the fundamental difficulty, because it sticks to trying to patch up a general picture out of distorted parts. Even the cooperation-of-experts method cannot succeed without a person skilled in "integrating" or "finding the consensus"--a skill which is practically that of the general reporter. Clearly a special type of person is needed. Through such people might develop a scientific method in the social sciences; in fact the question of developing such a method might better be posed in terms of developing people who might be properly equipped to do so. The training for a general reporter is, in terms of the abilities desired, about the same as an ideal training for leading jobs--statesman, executive, etc.

Since no established method has been worked out to study complex situations, it must follow that our general reporter must be trained in all the sciences. Only such a person will be in a position to even decide how these disciplines bear on the problem at hand. There may be objections that such training is impossible or that it is not necessary. As for the impossibility, the thing has not as far as I know been tried in a scientific manner. One can cite the example of Marx--and no doubt others--who had a tremendous breadth of knowledge without any "jack-of-all-trades" weaknesses. Engineering may be cited as a science bearing a jack-of-all-trades relation to the physical sciences and techniques, and it does not seem unreasonable to expect that a similar science could be reared relative to all sciences in so far as they affect society. As for the usefulness of such training, only one so trained could give an answer. It is in fact to answer such questions that we need the "general reporter". Not only do we not know how useful some of our techniques might be in the hands of such a person, but it may well be that whole regions of knowledge and sets of techniques will be open only to such a person.

When I said "trained in all the sciences" I meant a good working knowledge of the methods and terminology and sufficient descriptive knowledge to be able to classify or find information. The real problem comes in being more specific, and the working out of a syllabus would probably require the experimental production of a general observer.

In addition to scientific training, there are a number of techniques whose mastery is advisable because the time saved through their use more than compensates for the time spent in learning--particularly if they are mastered when young. In some cases, e.g. mathematics, the techniques make possible certain thought processes which would be impossible without them. Examples are rapid reading ability, recording techniques (shorthand, typing), clerical skills, study techniques, bibliographical knowledge and ability, computing skills. Because of its wide usefulness, it may be well to place mathematics (and statistics) in a special category as being a science, a technique and a language all at the same time.

Besides scientific knowledge and technical abilities, there are a number of things in part techniques and in part habits of thought and action. I am not speaking of the many endowments and qualities which are taken for granted in the person to be trained, but of a set of qualities which can be developed. Soviet writers lump them as "close touch with the masses". Whatever term is used, the fact remains that without a personal sympathetic understanding of people--of people in groups, of people who make up the vast majority of the population; in short the masses--one cannot understand what is happening in the world today. Such an understanding can come only by intimate contact with the lives and the struggles of the people. It is one thing to read about average wages in an industry being, say \$12 a week. It is another to survey impersonally or "observe" such families. It is still another to know intimately a few families who live on this income. And it is still different to participate in the lives of such people at work and in their group activities. It is not necessary to be hungry in order to understand something of what hunger means, but it is desirable to come in close contact with it.

Summing up, the specific things which the prospective "general reporter" should have, over and above numerous personal qualities, are:

1. Skill with the most important intellectual and "clerical" tools.
2. Basic training in all the sciences and branches of knowledge.
3. Close touch with the masses.

I include number 3 as part of training, rather than letting it slip into the wastebasket of "other personal qualities" because it should have special attention, planning, and time.

How to satisfy these requirements? Assuming a person decided to take this road at the time of graduation from college, it would be a matter of making out a program to fill in the gaps in his technical skills as quickly as possible, since these would facilitate the rest. Gradually, he would increase the time spent in broadening his scientific training--taking up one field at a time and working at it intensively. Perhaps after two years or so, depending on his previous training, he could be in a position to begin a project while continuing his training. Certainly by the age of thirty he could be developing his work on a broad front.

By earlier planning, remarkable results might be achieved. In pre-high school years one could include typing and a foreign language. In high school one could get shorthand and other clerical skills and start a second language. In college a third language (for rapid reading ability only of course), mastery of the rest of the list of techniques including mathematics through calculus, symbolic logic, statistics and selected topics in higher mathematics. Also in college: elementary laboratory courses in physics, chemistry, botany, biology. Selected courses in social science designed to give bibliographical skill and background information would round out the course. All training not requiring laboratory work, drilling, or supervised research should be carried on by means of independent reading and consultation. With the above training, such widely different subjects as economic theory and astronomy could be disposed of more efficiently by independent study. It might be well to emphasize one discipline in undergraduate work. Two important reasons for this are the fact that such specialization gives an "entree" and that it would serve as a check to superficiality--giving the student an appreciation of what his knowledge in other fields really amounted to.

So far I have said nothing about getting "close touch with the masses". Such activities as summer work in industry or agriculture, or even a year or so off, should be considered part of training. In high school, courses in some industrial art or trade should be included. An intimate acquaintance with machinery is an important part of the training of someone who wishes to understand people who work with it. Wherever the "general observer" is, during his "training" or during his work, he should try to keep in touch with working people through personal acquaintance and participation in their activities. This should be planned like any other part of his education and development.

The above may sound like vague and half-baked ideas for a better type of general education. Actually, it is intended as a suggested guide for a young person, who, once he determined to develop himself along such lines, would modify it to fit his own personality and make it into a concrete program. In a way too, it represents a revision with hindsight of the plans I made for myself many years ago when I decided to develop myself as a kind of tool to be capable of doing whatever turned out to be most important. Looking back, I find that I neglected to learn shorthand, wasted time on "general" courses instead of studying a trade, overdid my mathematics to the exclusion of a few (actually very few) good courses outside of the physical sciences. And then upon graduation, I specialized in the usual way, when broadening-out would have been better. These mistakes could have been avoided without any special efforts on my part--a mere suggestion from someone would have been sufficient. However, even with these omissions, I could pretty well complete the above schedule of training in a few years of study "on the side". This personal testimony is given, not to insert myself into the discussion, but simply as an example with which I am familiar.

It would be most interesting to work out a schedule of reading and activity designed to complete the training of a person having the necessary skills, and perhaps including a schedule for acquiring those skills lacking. Designation of books, men to consult, courses, universities, and estimated times would be an interesting project.

2532 1-2 Benvenue
Berkeley, California
June 17, 1940

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers:

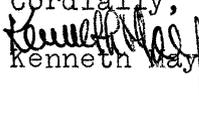
Thank you very much for passing on to me the extracts from Parkin's letter. I look forward to meeting Chermayeff. There are probably several people here in Architecture and in the Sciences whom he might like to meet and who would be interested in him.

Glad to hear of Howard's success. Another friend, John Dyer-Bennet, has just taken his final examination in mathematics at Harvard and will soon be here to give me first hand news.

The enclosed memorandum is supposed to be in response to the request made of me in Chicago. It does not actually "summarize..(my)..suggestions as to what standards there should be for competent general reporter" as suggested on page 10 of the minutes. This is because I feel that it is not yet possible to do this. The first job is to specify standards for the development of reporters, who will develop the methods of reporting. This is what I tried to do in a general way.

Please thank Mr. Brodie for sending E. B. Wilson's article.

Dad was in New York, but reports that you were away. He regretted missing you.

Cordially,

Kenneth May

June 26, 1940

Mr. Kenneth May,
2532^{1/2} Benvenue Avenue,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

Your letter of June 17th and your memo of June 9th came a few days ago.

The latter makes a real contribution to our thinking, so I am having copies sent to the trustees. But in our copies the word "develop" will be spelled that way instead of "develope" which you seem to prefer.

I am sorry to have been away while your father was in New York. Please give him my regards.

Monday the Finance Committee met here for an all-day session. In addition to Axelson, Nee and Parkin, who comprise the committee, Clark, John Crane and Robinson sat in. Afterwards there was a short Trustees' meeting. All those present felt that the time is ripe for the Institute to send to Australia and New Zealand and to Canada, on a short-time basis, men who possess part at least of the qualities you set forth in your memo. Do you know any one?

I think you would find pertinent to some of our talks an article in "Science" of June 14th by Dr. Lloyd W. Taylor entitled "Science in General Education at the College Level"; also, a book, "Plato Today," by R. H. S. Crossman, published recently by the Oxford Press, which has probably reached the University Library by this time.

Cordial greetings,

1548 Channing Way
Berkeley, California
September 28, 1940

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Mr. Rogers,

I have been most remiss in not answering sooner your last letter. However, I did receive and send greetings second hand when John was here a few weeks ago. Perhaps the main reason I have not answered is that I really had no one to suggest and this fact made my previous remarks somewhat academic.

The immediate occasion for my writing is to send you the two enclosed clippings. It is not my place to apologize for my father, but I was surprised and annoyed to see him bring the Institute into the affair. I have made no comment on his statements nor have I mentioned the Institute or said anything likely to involve it.

With cordial greetings,

Kenneth



PROF. S. C. MAY
... "it's just one of those things."



KENNETH MAY
... seeks building for...
(Associated Press)

Father Disowns Communist Son

U. of C. Professor Explains Action

BERKELEY, Sept. 26 (A.P.)—Prof. Samuel C. May of the University of California, vice chairman of the state council for defense, renounced his son, Kenneth, today because of the latter's "espousal of the cause of Communism."

The university's director of public administration said he had "disowned and disinherited" Kenneth May, teaching assistant in mathematics at the school, and that "any one who has children can understand it. It's just one of those things that may happen to any father."

At Sacramento, where Prof. May conferred with Gov. Culbert L. Olson, neither announced whether the father-son break had been discussed and there was no confirmation of the report that the professor had tried to resign from the defense board.

The renouncing followed a meeting of the board of education here last night, when Kenneth May avowed he was an official of the campus branch of the Young Communist league and supported a petition of that group for use of a building owned by the Berkeley High school.

"Someone had to take the action I did," the younger May commented today. He previously studied two and a half years in Europe under a fellowship.

The father said: "Everyone who knows me knows all my views are contrary to those of Kenneth" who "seems to have gathered a lot of those beliefs in Europe."



KENNETH MAY
He "Loses" a Father

At U. of C.

May Disowns His Son for Communism

Samuel Chester May, veteran University of California professor and a leader in State affairs, lost a son yesterday.

He lost his son, Kenneth, a teaching assistant at the university, not through death but because the father "disowned and disinherited" the son.

Professor May's drastic public action came because Kenneth May is an avowed Communist, a spokesman for the campus branch of the Communist party, and "campaign manager for the Communist party in Alameda county."

Both father and son justified their stands. The father said he had been fighting communism for 20 years. The son declared he had "seen how the party works everywhere to preserve and extend democracy."

Investigation of young May's "activities on the Berkeley campus" was promised by Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the university, in Los Angeles last night.

"To my knowledge," Sproul said, "he has not been active but I don't know what has happened during the past fortnight since I have been on the campus of the university here."

He added that "I am wiring for information and I should know more tomorrow."

Sproul declined to speculate on what action he might take in the matter.

The son made his views public Wednesday night at a meeting of the Berkeley Board of Education, when he appeared to speak in behalf of a petition for permitting the use of Berkeley's school buildings for communist meetings.

"I have been dreading this break



PROFESSOR MAY
"I have been dreading this"

More on May

U.C. Professor Disowns Son

Continued from Page 1

for weeks," said Professor May. "I have been expecting it for a long time. The break came privately some time ago but now it must come publicly.

"Everyone who knows me knows that my views are contrary to those of Kenneth. So decided are my views that I have completely disowned and disinherited Kenneth."

In addition to his post as head of the university's Bureau of Public Administration Professor May is vice chairman of the California State Defense Council, appointed to that post by Governor Olson.

Probably in connection with that position, Professor May went to Sacramento yesterday and conferred with the Governor. Neither would disclose the subject of the conversation, or would confirm or deny reports Professor May's resignation had been considered.

"It is just one of those things that may happen to any father," Professor May said. "Anyone who has children can understand.

"For 20 years I've been fighting communism. I have students scattered all over this State who know how I stand on radicalism and communism, so I don't believe anyone will question my position.

"When I became convinced my son had become an irreconcilable communist I took the only honorable course consistent with my personal views and the position I hold as an executive of the defense council."

Kenneth May was graduated from the University of California in 1935 after a brilliant campus record. He was a Phi Beta Kappa student and a member of Pi Mu Epsilon, Sigma Xi, Circle C Society, the Golden Bear Honor Society, was vice president of the Y. M. C. A., a member of the Student Judicial Council, member of the men's council for International House, and an official of the Institute of Pacific Relations.

He was the winner over thousands of students throughout the United States of a scholarship under the Institute of World Affairs, and under this scholarship studied in Europe for two and a half years. For five months of this time he studied in Russia.

STATE DEFENSE AID DISINHERITS HIS SON AS RED

Berkeley, Cal., Sept. 26 (U.P).—
Prof. Samuel May, University of
California official and vice chair-



**Prof. Samuel May
Casts off Communist son.**

man of the California State Defense Council, today publicly disowned and disinherited his son, Kenneth, a teaching assistant at the university, for being an avowed Communist.

"I have been dreading this break and I have been expecting it for weeks," the elder May, head of the university's Bureau of Public Administration, said.

The son, who studied in Europe for two and a half years under an Institute of World Affairs fellowship, appeared at a Berkeley School Board meeting last night in support of a petition of the university branch of the Young Communist League for use of a public school building for a meeting.

"Everyone who knows me knows all my views are contrary to those of Kenneth," the elder May said. "So decided are my views that I have completely disowned and disinherited Kenneth."

Prof. May Disowns Youth Because Of Stand

Prof. Samuel May, director of the University of California Bureau of Public Administration and vice-chairman of the California State Defense Council, today publicly disowned and disinherited his son, Kenneth May, for being an avowed Communist.

The son, teaching assistant in mathematics at the University, made his latest public declaration of his Communist affiliations at a meeting of the Berkeley Board of Education last night when he argued in support of a petition of the University Branch of the Young Communist League for use of a public school building for a meeting.

Following his graduation from the University in 1936, young May studied for two and a half years in Europe on a World Affairs Fellowship won in competition with thousands of college graduates. Between three and four months of this time were spent in Russia under a Soviet-supervised program of study. Upon his return, friends said, he espoused the Communist cause.

In making public his action against his son today Prof. May said: "I have been dreading this break and I have been expecting it for weeks." He stated that his action had been taken privately "some time ago."

"Everyone who knows me," said

[Continued on Page 11, Column 3]

Son Disowned By Professor

[Continued from Page One]

Prof. May, "knows all my views are contrary to those of Kenneth. So decided are my views that I have completely disowned and disinherited him." He said that his son "appeared to have gathered a lot of his views in Europe."

Following his appearance at the board of education meeting last night, friends of young May pointed out that his open espousal of the Communist cause might alienate him from his father and also jeopardize his teaching position at the University. "Some one had to take the action I did, and what happens cannot be helped," May was quoted as saying. Recently an article appeared in the Daily Californian, student newspaper, signed by Kenneth May as a spokesman for "The Campus Branch, Communist Party."

When May returned from his European studies he was assigned the position of teaching assistant in the department of mathematics at the University. He is married to the daughter of Prof. Dudley McGoveny of the University school of jurisprudence.

Student Communists have conducted anti-conscription meetings twice this semester, off the campus and outside the University's jurisdiction. At the opening of the term, President Robert Gordon Sproul warned students that any activities likely to be injurious to the National Defense program would not be tolerated. He hinted at expulsion as a penalty.

Red Charge at U.C. to Be Investigated

Teacher's Assistant Disowned by Professor Calling Son Communist

Investigation of the activities on the Berkeley campus of Kenneth May, a teaching assistant at the University of California, was promised here last night by Robert Gordon Sproul, university president.

May was publicly disowned and disinherited at Berkeley yesterday in an announcement by his father, Prof. Samuel May, University of California official and vice-chairman of the California State Defense Council.

Prof. May said he took such action because his son was an avowed Communist.

Dr. Sproul was asked of his knowledge concerning the activities of young May on the Berkeley campus as a leader of youthful Communist circles.

DREADED THE BREAK

"To my knowledge he has not been active but I don't know what has happened during the past fortnight since I have been on the campus of the university here," Dr. Sproul said. "However, I am wiring for information and I should know more tomorrow."

Dr. Sproul declined to speculate on what action he might take.

In making the announcement concerning his son, May said:

"I have been dreading this break and I have been expecting it for weeks."

Prof. May is head of the university's bureau of public administration.

ARGUED FOR REDS

The son, who studied in Europe for two and one-half years under an Institute of World Affairs fellowship won in competition with thousands of college graduates, appeared at a Berkeley School Board meeting Wednesday night to argue in support of a petition of the uni-



REBUKES SON—Prof. Samuel May, who has disowned youth as Red.

versity branch of the Young Communists League for use of a public school building for a meeting.

Young May argued for more than two hours at the meeting in support of the petition, similar to one which the board had granted for an August meeting and which aroused widespread controversy.

CAN'T BE HELPED

Friends pointed out that his open espousal of the Communist cause might alienate him from his father and also jeopardize his teaching position at the university.

"Someone had to take the action I did, and what happens cannot be helped," young May was quoted as saying.

The father made public his action, which he said had been taken privately "some time ago."

"Everyone who knows me knows all my views are contrary to those of Kenneth," the elder May said. "So decided are my views that I have completely disowned and disinherited Kenneth."

GOT VIEWS IN EUROPE

Prof. May said that Kenneth "appeared to have gathered a lot of his views in Europe."

During his study abroad the youth, graduate of University of California, spent between three and four months in Russia. On his return, friends said, he espoused the Communist cause.

Recently an article appeared in the Daily Californian, student newspaper, signed by Kenneth May as spokesman for "the campus branch, Communist party."

SPROUL WARNED

Kenneth May returned from his European studies about a year ago and was assigned a teaching position in the department of mathematics at the university in Berkeley. He is married to the daughter of Prof. Dudley McGovney of the School of Jurisprudence in Berkeley.

The existence of Communism in university circles has been the subject of much discussion recently.

At the opening of the present fall term, Dr. Sproul warned students that any activities likely to be injurious to national defense would not be tolerated. He hinted at expulsion as a penalty.

OPPOSE DRAFT

Despite Sproul's warning, Berkeley campus Communists twice have conducted anti-conscription meetings. However, the meetings were held off the campus and Sproul said he lacked jurisdiction.

The dispute over use of Berkeley school buildings by Communists began in August.

The school board authorized a meeting in a cottage on the Berkeley High School grounds over protests of minority mem-

bers, the American Legion, some faculty members, and other groups. The board majority contended that it was compelled to issue the permit since the Communist party is recognized in this State.

ACTION DELAYED

Wednesday night an application for a second meeting was presented the board, C. L. Ziegler, board member, moved it be denied but there was no second. May appeared in support of the petition. The board, after considerable debate, postponed action one week.

Olson and May Confer, but Keep Talk Secret

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 26. (AP)—Governor Olson today conferred with Prof. Samuel C. May, vice-chairman of the California State Council for Defense but both declined to state what, if any, consideration was given to the break between May and his son Kenneth over the issue of Communism.

Neither would confirm or deny reports that May had tendered his resignation and that the Governor had refused to accept it.

May, however, continued his duties as an executive of the defense council.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 194

Disowned Son Affirms Adherence to Beliefs Of Communist Party

Kenneth May '36, disowned and disinherited by his father, Prof. Samuel May, reaffirmed his conviction in the soundness of Communist principles in a telephone statement to The Californian last night.

His father, director of the bureau of public administration and vice-chairman of the California State Defense council, publicly revealed that he had disowned his son, after the younger May defended the Communist party at a meeting of the Berkeley Board of Education Wednesday.

"As a patriotic American I have no other choice but to work for what I consider to be the best interests of my country," May declared. Against the advice of friends who feared he would jeopardize his academic standing as teaching fellow and alienate his parents, May publicly pleaded the case of the Young Communists' League to the school board.

Refuting statements attributed to his father in local papers, May declared, "I first joined the Communist

ment, made public yesterday, was. "I am in complete disagreement with the Communistic activities of my son Kenneth and I have determined that he will receive no aid from me now or after my death to carry on his activities."

"I am bitterly opposed to Communism," Dr. May concluded. "Everyone who knows me knows that all my views are contrary to those of Kenneth. So decided are my views that I have completely disowned and disinherited my son."

The younger May is married to the former Ruth McGovney '30, daughter of Dudley McGovney, professor of jurisprudence at the University. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, May is also a member of Sigma Xi, honorary engineering society, member of Golden Bear, Circle "C," Phi Mu Epsilon and an active participant in the Student Institute of Pacific Relations.

party as an undergraduate at the University because I found by actual experience in student activities that the Communists were consistent and uncompromising fighters for the interest of the students and against reaction within and without the University."

He was referring to a statement attributed to his father that he had, while in Europe, "gathered a lot of beliefs." Professor May was alluding to the two and a half years his son studied in Europe under an Institute of World Affairs fellowship.

Professor May, also was quoted as saying, "While in Europe Kenneth married a woman much older than himself, a former teacher in the Oakland public schools. She was a Communist."

In reference to this May said, "My wife is not a member of the Communist party and we do not interfere with each other's patriotic activities."

Dr. May's statement of disown-
(Continued on Page 2, Col. 8)

PROF. MAY OF U.C. DISOWNS SON AS LEADER OF REDS

BERKELEY, Sept. 26.—Prof. Samuel C. May, director of the bureau of public administration at the University of California, today publicly disinherited and disowned his son, Kenneth May, teaching assistant in mathematics and brilliant graduate of the university.

His action, taken privately some time ago because of the son's activity in the Communist party, was prompted and made public today by the son's appearance and espousal of the Communist cause last night before the Berkeley Board of Education.

Professor May, a former city councilman and a noted civic leader, is vice-chairman of the State defense council appointed recently by Governor Olson.

SON ADMITS VIEWS

His son told the Berkeley board members last night he is an official representative of the campus branch of the Young Communist League and the Alameda County Communist party, and is the election campaign manager for the two organizations.

As he left for Sacramento this morning for duties in connection with the defense council, Prof. May declared:

"I have been expecting this to break, and I have been dreading it for weeks.

"Everyone who knows me knows that all my views are contrary to those of Kenneth.

"So decided are my views that I have completely disowned and disinherited my son.

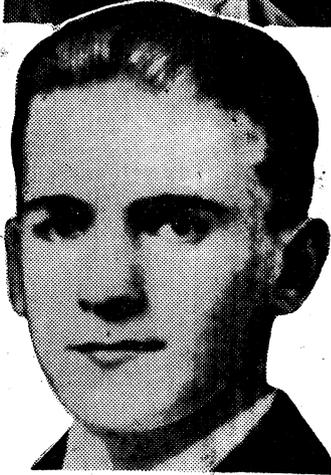
HAS MARTYR COMPLEX

"Kenneth seems to have a martyr complex. He seems to have gathered a lot of those beliefs in Europe."

The professor referred to the fact that his son returned from Europe last year after spending 2½ years there on a fellowship granted by the Institute of World Affairs, of New York. He was chosen for the scholarship from among students of all colleges in the United States.

When it was pointed out by friends that his appearance before the board of education last night in behalf of the Communist Party would injure his position at the University, as well as alienating him from his father, young May said:

"It can't be helped. Some one had to take the action I did."



Prof. Samuel C. May (top), U. of Calif., "disowns and disinherits" instructor son Kenneth (bottom) because of "Communist tendencies." (AP Wire-photos)

Professor disowns son as communistic

Berkeley, Calif., Sept. 27 (AP).—A college professor has disowned his son because of the latter's communistic leanings.

Prof. Samuel C. May, director of the bureau of public administration at the University of California, announced his decision just before leaving for Sacramento in connection with his duties as a member of the state defense council.

At a meeting of the board of education, the son, Kenneth May, teaching assistant in mathematics, avowed he was an official of the campus branch of the Young Com-

munist league and of the Alameda county Communist party.

The elder May said: "I have been expecting this to break and I have been dreading it for weeks. Everyone who knows me knows all my views are contrary to those of Kenneth. So decided are my views that I have completely disowned and disinherited my son. Kenneth seems to have gathered a lot of those beliefs in Europe."

Kenneth May studied 2½ years in Europe on a fellowship. He said "it can't be helped; someone had to take the action I did." He supported

a petition of the campus branch of the Young Communists for use of a building owned by the Berkeley high school.

Statement Issued

Kenneth May Defends Membership in Party

Kenneth May, in a statement defending his membership in the Communist party, last night made no specific comment on the action of his father, Professor Samuel Chester May, in disowning him for his beliefs.

He took occasion to deny that his wife, who is the former Ruth McGovney, daughter of Professor Dudley O. McGovney of the university and a teacher in Oakland high schools, is a Communist.

May said:

"I first joined the Communist party as an undergraduate at the University of California because I found by actual experience in student activities that the Communists were consistent and uncompromising fighters for the interests of the students and against reaction within and without the university.

"I became convinced that the Communists were correct in their analysis of the university adminis-

tration and the social system of which the university is a part.

"As a member of the Communist party I have seen how the party works everywhere to preserve and extend democracy, protect the living standards of the people, build the trade unions and keep this country out of war.

"During a stay of two years in Europe I observed the Communist parties in France and England in action and visited a number of other countries, including the Soviet Union. All these experiences convinced me that the Communist party is the greatest force for good in the world and that only through Socialism can the people of the United States solve the problem of unemployment, poverty, oppression and war.

"As a patriotic American I have no other choice but to work for what I consider to be the best interests of my country and the world."

COPY

U. S. GRANT HOTEL

San Diego, California
September 27, 1940

May

My dear Walter

Since I shall not return to Washington until the end of next week, I fear that I shall miss Parkin if he visits the city - as you suggest is possible. If I do, I'll regret it very much.

This morning I mailed you a local front page with *May* family features. I am not a communist of course, or a "fellow-traveler" with communists, but I admire Kenneth's independence and courage. It at least separates him from the political herd of emasculate rabbits that constitutes so much of our electorate.

Plan to be in Pasadena early next week if the fates permit me.

Cordially,

(sgd) Victor S. Clark

Campus Communists

S. D. Trilowin Series 7/25/40

The case of Professor Samuel C. May of the University of California and his Communist son, Kenneth, provides material for some serious thinking by fathers and mothers throughout these United States of ours. Professor May seemingly has tried to dismiss the matter by his statement that "anyone who has children can understand it. It's just one of those things that may happen to any father." But is it?

So young Kenneth May finds himself "disowned and disinherited" because of his Communistic beliefs which, according to his father, he seems to have gathered during a period of two and a half years' study under a fellowship in Europe. But what of the earlier years when Professor May's son studied in the United States? How did it happen that his absorption of American ideals and his years of living and learning in this country were all overthrown by a comparatively short period of study in Europe? Who has the answer to that question?

It is quite possible that if Professor May digs diligently into the past regarding the youthful companionships and American teachers of his son Kenneth, who is now a Communist, he may find some part of the answer; for when the evil seed of Communism sprouts in men, almost always there is something favorable to it in the soil, implanted early.

Which brings us back to the statement that the case of Professor May of the University of California and his Communist son, Kenneth, provides material for some serious thinking by fathers and mothers throughout these United States of ours, especially regarding their teachers.

For example, Communist Kenneth May is a member of the faculty at the University of California, where his father is director of public administration. Communist Kenneth May teaches university students. What does he teach them? It is reported that he has a record of Communistic activities on the Berkeley campus. How many other university and State college instructors have similar records? What are we doing about it?

October 3, 1940

Mr. Kenneth May,
1548 Channing Way,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

Thank you for your letter of September 28th and the accompanying clippings. The story was carried in the New York papers and seemingly in several other places.

The episode doesn't quite make sense to me for there must be more to it than the clippings reveal. I'll be along one of these days and then you can give me the background.

I certainly hope that your studies and work will in no way be disturbed.

Cordial greetings,

LA. TIMES 10/12/40

U.C. Ousts Young May, Called Red

BERKELEY, Oct. 11. (AP) Kenneth May, 24-year-old University of California faculty member whose father disowned him for being a Communist, today was summarily discharged by the university regents, who said his beliefs and faculty position are "incompatible." The discharge is effective immediately.

Young May's father, Prof. Samuel C. May of the university's business administration department, announced Sept. 24 that because he was "bitterly opposed to Communism" and was "in complete disagreement" with his son, he had disowned and disinherited him.

The discharged mathematics assistant accused the regents of showing "their disregard for our democratic form of government by denying my right to belong to a legally recognized political party."

Let Us Have Only American Teaching

THE repudiation of a son by a father is a poignant and tragic affair, and ordinarily a private affair which should be respected as such.

In the circumstances, however, which have attended just such an act of repudiation by a distinguished University of California educator there is a vital public interest which the parent himself has recognized.

For the son involved is also an instructor at the same university, and the things for which his father has disowned him cannot be disassociated from his duties and responsibilities there.

This unfortunate son and unhappy father are in the profession of molding the minds of young Americans.

What is in THEIR minds is therefore vital public business.

The objectionable and condemnable thing in the son's mind is COMMUNISM, an alien faith hostile to Americanism.

The ineradicable thing in the parent's mind is his respect and devotion to his country, which requires of him a renunciation of relationship as "the only honorable course consistent with my personal views and the position I hold."

The thing that is in the son's mind is what every American home, in which respect and loyalty for America remain, is resisting and fighting, abhorring and despising, fearing and dreading.

The thing that is in the father's mind was the principle which brought the United States into existence, gave it the strength to preserve itself throughout all the emergencies and vicissitudes of our national history, and is the sole condition of our continued existence as a free and independent nation.

There are three basic institutions in America to which we cannot have divided or weak or indifferent or skeptical allegiance.

One is that which concerns the home and family, sacred in its concept, and of

such a substance that only affection and trust and respect can hold it together.

Another is our reverence for the divine authority, in whose sight this beloved and precious land of ours was first created and now endures.

The last is fidelity to the flag of the United States, and to the great and free republic for which it stands, and to the principles, ideals and institutions which are its magnificent but not indissoluble substance.

In these fundamental American things we **MUST BELIEVE**.

Any teachings, philosophies or ideologies, of domestic or alien origin, which oppose these American things we **MUST OPPOSE**.

We cannot be communistic, wholly, half-heartedly or in any smallest part, and be **AMERICAN**.

We cannot have communistic youth and at the same time have **AMERICAN** youth.

We cannot have communistic schools, or communistic teachers, or communistic influences in any of the relationships between impressionable youth and their elders, their homes or their government, and have any expectation of keeping the United States from eventually becoming communistic instead of remaining **AMERICAN**.

Why should the anti-godliness and anti-Americanism of communists be taught or tolerated or endured anywhere in America?

Communism is not only capable of breaking up homes and families, and the sacred relationships of fathers and sons, but it is capable of the impairment and destruction of **AMERICA ITSELF**.

Let us protect American youth against communism.

Let us drive communism out of our American schools.

Let us put it out of our minds and hearts, in whatever small way it has gained foothold there.

*file
W.S.R.*

TO THE EDITOR:

In taking an indefinite leave of absence from the University, I wish to make clear that this action is not prompted by any approval of the decision of the Board of Regents in dismissing me. The issue involved in the dismissal is one which must be fought out if this is to be a free University. My reasons for withdrawing are indicated in the following statement:

Although my studies at the University of California have been largely in the Department of Mathematics, my interest has turned increasingly to mathematics as a tool for economic analysis, particularly in Marxist political economy and economic planning. It is in mathematical economics and statistics that I have done my graduate work. Economics, because of its proximity to the decisive issues of the day, suffers more than any other subject from the scholasticism, the divorce of theory and practice, and the outright suppression of free inquiry which tend to characterize science in that part of the world still ruled by capitalism. Although I had hoped to write a thesis in mathematical economics, I have come to the conclusion that I cannot make such a thesis an honest part of my work and development at this time. I am too dissatisfied with the theoretical framework within which it would have to be written. To construct an alternative is a task of years, not months. And it is a task which can be done only in closest connection with the daily struggles of the masses. For this reason Communist Party activity is for me not an alternative to, but a necessary part of, scientific work. These are the factors which make it possible for me without regret to leave the University for full participation in the working class movement. I hope in time to do more significant theoretical work than would have been possible within the University. Most scientists who become Marxists find that they can best carry on their work by remaining within the University and by integrating their scientific work with the struggle against scholasticism and suppression on and off campus. In deciding to leave the University, it is good to know that scores of others remain to carry on this task in the academic world.

*Sent to WSR by Howard Weidenman
April 1941*

*file
may*

1120 Masonic Avenue
Albany, California
December 12, 1941

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
Institute of Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Like millions of others, I am looking for the place where I can be most effective in the war effort. At present I am working for the Communist Party as organizer and teacher. I have been classified as III-A automatically because of being married, although my wife can earn her own living. With the full approval of the Party, I am anxious to enlist in the armed forces or serve in whatever other way seems best. Before enlisting, however, I am writing you for advice.

I could, of course, enlist, requesting assignment to some special branch. For example, I might be assigned eventually to the Alpine Troops, making use of my experience in skiing and mountaineering, or to some phase of artillery, where I could use my mathematics.

However, it seems to me that the particular combination of training and experience which I have might make me useful to the government or to the armed forces in some special capacity. I am thinking of my technical training, knowledge of languages, acquaintance with the Soviet Union, and experiences in Europe. Also, during the last year and a half, I have gained considerable organizing experience and skill and have greatly strengthened what I called "touch with the masses" in my memorandum to you of June 9, 1941.

Do you know any job where I could be useful either in or out of the armed forces? Are you going to be out here sometime soon so that I could talk to you about this?

Cordially yours,

Kenneth May
Kenneth May

P.S. I just received a questionnaire from the Nation Ski Patrol system which is collecting a list of people who might be assigned to Mountain Troops. I am returning it immediately, but will not enlist until I hear from you.

KM:rm
uopwa #58

December 16, 1941

Mr. John H. Hazard,
515 22nd St., N.W.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter just received from Kenneth May and a brief memo I have prepared in regard to him.

If you think you can do so without the slightest embarrassment, please ask General Spaulding or one of the other officers about to read the two communications and if they offer any advice as to what action Kenneth should take, let me have it.

Cordial greetings,

Dec. 15, 1941

Professor Evans, a distinguished mathematician, University of California, recommended Kenneth May to me as a young man of exceptional mathematical ability with a primary interest in the mathematical bases of statistics and in the use of statistics as an element in national planning.

At the time I happened to know that there was being set up in the Russian National Planning Commission a school to train statisticians and to do research in the underlying mathematics.

May studied Russian and then went to Moscow where he found that the school had not as yet advanced to a stage where he could learn much from it, even were he given permission to attend. He therefore went to England where he studied for six months. Then he went to Paris where for an academic year he worked with a group of distinguished mathematicians who were working on precisely the problems in which he was interested. He then returned to the University of California to write a thesis in completion of requirements for a doctor's degree. He was forced out of the university under somewhat peculiar circumstances.

His father, Samuel May, who is head of the Department of Public Administration in the University of California, is the scheming, wire-pulling type of an academic official and has been pretty good at wangling appropriations out of the legislature. His wife, who had the reputation of being one of the finest women about the university, brought up the two children. After her death a few years ago as result of a gas stove explosion, the family broke up.

To the irritation of Sam May his son Kenneth became engaged to the daughter of a fellow professor with whom Sam May had a feud. When the latter learned that the girl was going to England to marry Kenneth, he hurried there to try to prevent the marriage. Being unsuccessful, he practically repudiated his son.

After the son returned to California he talked a good deal about Russia and joined a local communist group. Whereupon his father, with great gusto, denounced his son and proclaimed to the press that he was disinheriting him. The young man left the university. So far as I can find out the generally held opinion is that the father made an ass of himself, throwing over his son partly because of his dislike of the marriage and partly out of a notion that his son's attitude might in some way interfere with his own ambitions.

The son then took a job with the local communistic group. How much of this is attributable to belief in communistic principles and how much to bitterness towards his father, I do not pretend to know. In any event Kenneth May has a first-class head and is an exceedingly capable statistician with creative powers. It seems that there should be some place where his exceptional talents can be used. He has continued his study of Russian

W.S.R.

OFFICE OF LEND-LEASE ADMINISTRATION
FIVE-FIFTEEN 22d STREET NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 23, 1941

Mr. Walter S. Rogers
Institute of Current War Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Rogers:

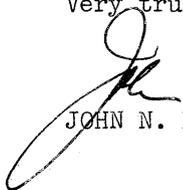
I discussed with some of the officers the questions raised concerning Kenneth May's enlistment. It seems to be the opinion that a man with his affiliations will find it particularly difficult in the Army. As you know, there is certainly no love for potential disorganizers and there seems to be a general feeling that even though present policy may tend to favor concerted action it cannot be said what may develop in the future.

My own hunch would be that the going would be very hard for him and that he should be advised to wait his turn and see what decision is made by a draft board. Under present law I believe that persons with his affiliations are excluded and it might be that if he enlisted he would be thought to be trying to gain admittance where he was not wanted.

The subject is certainly a touchy one and I do not feel competent to suggest what should be done. In any event it is clear that most officers do not believe that a sane man could have his particular interest.

I hope to be in Rhode Island for Christmas Day but will be back here the day after in view of pressure of events. Susan and I hope that you will be in town shortly to visit us again. Greetings to all of the staff.

Very truly yours,



JOHN N. HAZARD

December 24, 1941

Mr. Kenneth May,
1120 Masonic Avenue,
Albany, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

Not knowing what to write in reply to your letter of December 12th, I asked John Hazard, who is now an official in the Russian section of Lend-Lease Administration, to seek the advice of one or more of the army officers with whom his work brings him into close contact.

In response to my request he writes me, in a letter just received, as follows:

"I discussed with some of the officers the questions raised concerning Kenneth May's enlistment. It seems to be the opinion that a man with his affiliations will find it particularly difficult in the Army. As you know, there is certainly no love for potential disorganizers and there seems to be a general feeling that even though present policy may tend to favor concerted action it cannot be said what may develop in the future.

"My own hunch would be that the going would be very hard for him and that he should be advised to wait his turn and see what decision is made by a draft board. Under present law I believe that persons with his affiliations are excluded and it might be that if he enlisted he would be thought to be trying to gain admittance where he was not wanted.

"The subject is certainly a touchy one and I do not feel competent to suggest what should be done. In any event it is clear that most officers do not believe that a sane man could have his particular interest."

I do not feel competent to pass judgment on the views set forth in the above quotation. Nor do I feel competent to offer you specific advice. Shortly after the first of the year I expect to be in Washington. While there, I will make further inquiries. I share with you the feeling that with your ability there should be some place in which you could make a useful contribution.

Tom Blakemore is in Washington in the Japanese section of the Office of Coordinator of Information. Talbot has been given a commission in the Navy and is stationed in India. In the course of the last six months the Institute has taken on two new men. One of them, Lawrence Witt, who

is an agricultural economist, has been making a study of Canadian-American agricultural problems. The other, Francis Herron, a young newspaperman, is now in the Argentine.

There is a possibility that I shall be in California late in the winter or early in the spring. If I do get there I will hunt you up. In any event let me hear from you from time to time.

Regretting that I cannot be of practical assistance to you and wishing you and your wife a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I am

Yours cordially,

Berkeley, Calif. May 1942

Mrs. Kenneth May Files for Divorce

Mrs. Ruth McGovern May, Oakland school teacher, today sought a divorce from Kenneth May, disowned by his father and ousted from his University of California teaching post because of his Communist activities.

Mrs. May sought the divorce, filed in Alameda County Superior Court, on grounds Mr. May allegedly inflicted "grievous mental suffering" on her.

Mr. May's father, Professor Samuel C. May, director of the University's bureau of public administration, publicly disowned him Sept. 26, 1940 for Communist Party membership. He was dismissed two weeks later.

Mrs. May is the daughter of Professor Dudley O. McGovern of the university law school.

Following his dismissal, Mr. May declared he would devote all of his time to Communist activity.

Tolan Reports on Manpower

Changes Needed for Effective Mobilization of Manpower. Sixth interim report of the Tolan Committee on National Defense Migration, 43 pages. May be obtained free by writing to Representative John H. Tolan or to the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Reviewed by
KENNETH MAY

Now that unified war planning is recognized by the win-the-war forces as the domestic counterpart of a second land front in Europe, it has become just as important to follow economic as military developments. For this purpose, the hearings and reports of the Tolan Committee not only contain a mass of valuable information (already running to several dozen indexed volumes) whose detailed content are less important than the committee's constant insistence on unified organization of every phase of the economy, subordinating everything else to victory.

It was Earl Browder who first called the attention of labor to the full significance of the Tolan Committee's work. In his article on the "Economics of All-Out War" (October Communist) and in "Victory and After," he points to the Tolan Reports, along with the work of Bernard Baruch, as real contributions.

Of course, few people will find time to wade through the committee's hearing, but the Interim Reports will be easily and profitably read by anyone who realizes that "this war can be lost in Washington." These reports are among the best available collateral reading for "Victory and After."

War Economy

Although set up to investigate defense migration, the Tolan Committee soon found that it had to tackle the war economy as a whole. Of its six interim reports, four deal with the war production program in general. The second report (December 19, 1941) called for a single civilian board to plan and control all production. The third report (March 9, 1942) urged that the war economy be run along the organizational lines of a single industrial firm. The fifth report (August 10, 1942) showed how the solution of the manpower problem is dependent upon proper planning of the entire war program.

The sixth interim report caused a flurry of newspaper comment when it was issued on October 20. Most commentators pooh-poohed its contents or stressed a few sensational criticisms. Only the labor press brought out its significance as a well documented plea for immediate centralized organization of the war economy—a demand already voiced by the labor movement.

The main conclusion of this sixth report, and indeed of the entire work of the committee is summed up in the following passage:

"We need over-all planning and programming of facilities, raw materials and manpower, and a single executive head to carry the job through. There is no other way to fight this war."

The committee proposes that such a program be carried through by an Office of War Mobilization, working through three subordinate agencies: the Office of War Supply, the Office of War Manpower and the Office of Economic Stabilization.

Interdependent

First, the report recognizes the relationship between military and economic planning, showing how the failure in either sphere has its effect in the other. The report states:

"It is apparent that the present status of production limits and makes uncertain our military

strategy. Thus we come back to the beginning of a vicious circle where uncertain, limited military strategy makes the services incapable of developing a program of requirements." (P. 27.) "Without these schedules (of requirements by the military), it has been impossible to plan production, to allocate materials and manpower. And because we have not planned the elements of production, we cannot manage or control the flow of armament. Without such a scheduled flow of weapons, the military cannot undertake to plan its strategy. Thus we are always on the defensive. Our military actions are like our production work: task forces in the former, rescue parties in the latter. Since the winter of 1941 it has been clear to every Main Street American that what is needed is a second front in Europe to split Axis forces. Spring, summer, and fall have come and gone without a second front." (P. 38.) This is a remarkable statement of the unity of the two issues facing America: a second land front in Europe and unified economic war planning.

Second, the report emphatically rejects military control and sharply criticizes the continuation of army procurement-as-usual policies. For example the report points out that procurement contracts "bear no balanced relation to one another or to the drafts of manpower for military service," that "no contract to date has carried with it a bill of material requirements and a time-production schedule" (!), and that the military has proven itself incapable of organizing production and has delegated its responsibility to the 100 prime contractors, i. e. the biggest monopolies. Rep. George H. Bender of Ohio, a member of the committee who considers that "some points are not made strongly enough," says in his additional comments:

"Until the War Production Board retrieves its transferred authority over production from the services, it will remain a hollow facade behind which the armed services lead the nation from one production defeat to another . . . Under no conditions can the military be permitted to continue their chaotic, unplanned demands upon the nation's manpower resources, without regard to the effect on industry, agriculture, and the strategy of the United Nations."

Labor-Management

Third, the report stresses the need for more labor participation. It proposes to attach to the Office of War Mobilization an advisory Board of War Mobilization upon which labor would be represented. It emphasizes the role of labor unions and the labor-management committees, and criticizes both the WPB and recalcitrant employers for the fact that only 1500 out of 10,000 war plants have established labor-management committees. It suggests that these committees must be largely relied upon in solving the problems of labor utilization.

Fourth, the committee calls attention to the necessity of taking complete inventory of materials, equipment and manpower and of careful time-scheduling of production, so as to balance its different elements and so as to meet the schedule or requirements worked out by the military. Negative methods of control, such as priorities, must give way to positive detailed scheduled allocations. It may surprise the average citizen to learn that our production "program" is working without a time schedule, and that we do not know accurately what facilities and manpower we have available. For example, Selective Service has gathered information on 40,000,000 registrants, but no money was appropriated to

tabulate or otherwise utilize this information! Excessive inventories of critically short materials have been built up by big companies (excessive inventories is a polite name for hoarding), but the government does not know exactly where or how much, although they estimate over 400,000,000 pounds of steel is lying idle in this manner!

Fifth, the report urges that the technical and administration work of war be handled by those trained for this work—engineers, statisticians, production managers—and not by salesmen, public relations experts, and other business and financial executives. In their words:

"The committee cannot understand why the persons charged by the Commander in Chief with the responsibility of creating the arsenal of democracy do not bring into their service the best production men directly from the plants instead of borrowing sales managers and corporation executives.

Our national war effort requires competent engineers, men who know labor, materials, machines in their proper scheduling." Here the committee might have added that many leading trade unionists have these qualifications as well as engineers.

Decentralization

Sixth, the committee lays stress on the need for regional decentralization of planning. This proposal is not by any means contrary to the principle of centralized control. At present, the hundreds of conflicting agencies work (and get tangled up) on a regional as well as on a national basis. Regional bodies will be needed to plan and coordinate all activities in each area. Such regionalization would tremendously reduce Washington red tape by permitting local decisions on the basis of nationally decided policy.

Seventh, the committee opposes arbitrary labor conscription. The report does not oppose compulsion as such. But it considers that the present manpower difficulties are not due to lack of compulsion, but to lack of planning. With proper planning, and coordination of manpower in cooperation with labor organizations, compulsion would cease to be an issue. On the other hand, with the present manpower chaos, with hoarding of workers, with pirating by industry and the services, with concentration of contracts in the big companies, the passage of compulsory national service legislation at this time would simply freeze chaos and create compulsory confusion.

Eighth, the committee observes that the key to manpower planning is over-all control and balancing of manpower between civilian and military use and in relation to production schedules. Surprising as it seems, no one has planned even the distribution of manpower between industry and the armed forces, and the Director of Selective Service testified before the committee that he "hardly knows from one month to the next what the projected size of the army is to be, and that he has no significant control over enlistments." The committee recommends that the proposed Office of War Mobilization should "determine the number of the armed forces, allocate manpower between competing demands of the armed services and the war economy, relate production to military strategy, and make similar basic decisions."

In the opinion of the reviewer, these features of the report are more important than its organizational proposals. They make the report worthy of study as a contribution to the understanding of those planning principles which are not only basic to winning the war, but to the organization of post-war reconstruction and development.

file

2311 Durant Avenue
Berkeley, California
November 26, 1942

Dear Mr. Rogers,

As you see, I am still riding planning, like the wild West hero whoksticks to his faithful old mount wherever he goes.

As for the army, I have been on the receiving end of a first class run-around. My application got stuck (for the ski troops) at the A.G.O., who ~~is~~ apparently too busy to make a decision for ~~six~~ eight months now. When I was ~~divorced~~, my draft board finally classified me 1^A and sent me to the induction center in August. Since then, I have become a familiar figure at the center, while new excuses not to induct me have been concocted: everything from some trifling mistake in my forms to "rejected pursuant to authority contained in first Indorsement, Headquarters Ninth Corps Area, Fort Douglas, ~~dated~~ dated April 8, 1942" whatever that means. The real reasons for these delays has of course remained an open secret. Last week, I was drafted all over again only to have my induction again delayed at the center, and I am still uncertain as to what and when what will happen from day to day and week to week.

Luckily, the war as a whole doesn't seem to be handled in as bad a manner.

Cordially,

Kenneth Onano

December 2, 1942

Mr. Kenneth May,
2311 Durant Avenue,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

It is always pleasant to hear from you.

Our Institute men interested in Russia are busy using their knowledge. Bruce Hopper is at the Embassy in Stockholm. Sam Harper goes to Washington occasionally and has prepared several memoranda. John Hazard continues on as administrative head of the Russian section of Lend-Lease. Robinson (a trustee) is in charge of the Russian section of the Office of Strategic Services.

Our two young men interested in South America are back home. Francis Herron enters the army about the first of the year. Lawrence Witt is to do some teaching in Iowa State College. He has been offered a teaching post in a Brazilian agricultural college and may take the job for a year.

The Institute has taken on its first woman for field work; Miss Leland, who gives a course on French Canada in Smith College, is going to study at first hand that part of global affairs.

Hope you work out something satisfactory to both you and the army.

Maybe I will get to California again. If so, I will hunt you up.

Cordial greetings,

W/ve

Camp Roberts
California

January 31st 43

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am really in the
army now and seem
headed for mountain or
ski troops (possibly para-
skiers) when my 13 weeks
basic infantry training is
over.

I have just completed
the first week, and it
is certainly a strenuous
course.

However, it's an interesting
and instructive experience.

I have been appointed a
squad leader and told that
I would have a chance
for officers' training.

My impression is that
many errors of the past
are being avoided in building
this army. It would be
easy to find weaknesses,
but I am more impressed
by the generally healthy
spirit, aggressive and
vigorous activity, and
realistic approach of those
in charge and of the
men.

Rt. Kenneth O. May
#341177D

Co. B. 83 Inf. Tny. Bn.
Camp Roberts.

Cordially

Kenneth

file

Feb. 11, 1943

Pvt. Kenneth O. May,
#39117770,
Co. B, 83 Inf. Tng. Bn.,
Camp Roberts, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

I am pleased to know that you have at last been taken into the army and that you are getting a kick out of what you are doing. I hope that in due time you will be put into a place where you can fully utilize your ability.

A week or so ago I was in Ames, Iowa, to spend a few days with two of the Institute's young men - Francis Herron and Lawrence Witt. Herron goes into the army or navy within the next few days and hopes to be placed where his knowledge of Spanish and Latin America will be called upon. Witt is standing by awaiting word from the Department of Agriculture which is considering sending him to Central America.

You may be interested - and perhaps amused - to know that the Institute has added to its field staff its first woman - Marine Leland. She has been giving a course at Smith College on French Canadian History and Literature. For us she is making a study of French Canada and its relations to this country.

Here's wishing you the best of good fortune and hoping that I may hear from you from time to time.

Cordial greetings,

WSR

file
June 21, 1943

Pvt. Kenneth May,
#39117770,
Hq. Co., 86th Inf. (R),
Camp Hale, Colo.

Dear Kenneth:

The other day in Washington Howard Wiedemann told me that he had received a letter from you. It was good to hear about you.

Howard, as perhaps he has written you, is now an ensign and is in the Office of Strategic Services working on Russian problems. Francis Herron, who was in the Argentine for the Institute, is now in Washington on the Navy's Argentine desk. Witt, who was in Brazil for the Institute, is in the U.S.D.A. working on agricultural economic problems having to do with Latin America. Tom Blakemore, who is a first lieutenant in the Army, works on Japanese matters and is now enroute somewhere.

John Hazard continues on as administrative head of the Russian Section of Lend-Lease.

A book, "Letters from the Argentine," by Herron is on the press. If you will let me have an address, I will send you a copy about three weeks hence.

I have just been going over one of Professor E. T. Bell's mathematical books looking for something that doesn't seem to be in it.

Hope things are going well with you.

Cordial greetings,

WSR

~~rec~~

June 29/43

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am writing
now since before long
letters may take
some time. I'm an
auto-refleman in a
rock-climbers' platoon
and hope to be in the
first wave of our
combat team when
we land on some
now unknown beach.

It's good to hear
news of the Jewa-its
altho I find it
annoying that my
own name isn't
listed as doing

research on the
This annoyance is
lessened much by
knowing why either.
I wonder whether we
will be able to win
the war without
outgrowing the anti-
communist phobia?
It may be so — but
I'm sure we must
outgrow it in order to
win the peace.

I was particularly
pleased at the news
of Howard. This may
enable him to justify
your original hunch
about his possibilities.
In the few letters he
has written I've sensed

3/ no little development in
the last few years.

I would be glad
to receive a copy
of Herron's book.

Send it to my
present address. (below).

With best wishes,

Kenneth May

Pfc Kenneth O. May

39117770

Co A 87th Mtn Inf

A T F 9

Fort Ord, Calif.

P.S: In April I passed the
ASTP test (141 out of 150 questions)
and then the ASTP board,
who informed me I would
be recommended for work
in advanced mathematics.
It must have been killed
in Washington.

Somewhere in the Pacific
Sept. 23, 1943

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Francis Herron's "Letters from the Argentine" caught up with me here. I have sent home-ward an SOS for books, magazines and papers - but Herron's book was the first one to arrive, enabling me to break a diet of Shakespeare complete and a poetry anthology.

I read it eagerly in the odd moments a dog face has, and it has started down a waiting line. After discounting for my eagerness to read any current book, I still feel that it's tops, and so do those here who have looked into it - most

(2)

men here are from foreign states. Of course I'm just adding my voice to many when I say that Herron has done an admirable job, perhaps a goal to shoot at for the "general reporter".

I have written a review which will probably find its way into the labor press. Altho it stresses those features of the book of greatest interest to that public, I endeavored to leave the impression that Herron has written a book of interest to all Americans. If it is published I will forward you a copy.

My experience in the mountain infantry has been very different from that anticipated. I've done al-

most no mountaineering and no skiing at all. I have got better acquainted with a section of America to which I was entirely a stranger — the workers of farm and woods, for this is the predominant type in my company. The half squad of which I am corporal includes no other "city slicker", no other "educated" man.

The experience convinces me for the ^{1st} time that we are a great nation — of great virtues and ^{of} faults which can be overcome. The experience is valuable enough, so that I ^{now} consider myself fortunate to have not been sent to OCS or ASTP

90WA

(4)

direct from basic training. This year has been an essential supplement to the previous two, which I thought had completely rounded out the previous three.

Life here is wearisome; labor and the struggle against weather and isolation being mitigated by few conveniences. Naturally

I hope for a shift, so as to be able to participate in the events of which we hear exciting snatches.

But we are doing an essential job and this is all one can expect in war.

Please give my regards to the Juwates. I see

Moulton has published another book

Cordially, Kenneth May

file
November 5, 1943.

Cpl. Kenneth O. May,
#39117770
Co. A. 87 Mtn Inf.,
A P O 730 % P. M.,
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Kenneth:

I was greatly pleased to receive your letter, which caught up with me while I was "doing" parts of the Middle West.

Herron's book has been receiving very favorable reviews. I agree with you that he has done a remarkable job in giving a picture of the folks of the Argentine.

Miss Powell has taken a leave of absence and is now Assistant supervisor of women in the Boeing plant at Renton, near Seattle. If you ever get in that neighborhood, be sure to look her up. I am sure that she would be delighted to see you.

The only person the Institute now has in the field is Miss Marine Leland, on leave from Smith College, who is making a study of French-Canada. Recently she has been in the Canadian prairie provinces where there are important French-Canadian enclaves.

Early in the coming year the Trustees of the Institute will meet to discuss possible programs for it after the war is over. Of course it likely would be premature to come to any conclusions at that time, but it is thought that a preliminary discussion would be worth while. If you have any ideas I should like to have them.

Enclosed are copies of two letters that came in recently.

Cordial greetings and the best of good wishes.

Dec. 7, 1943.

Cpl. Kenneth May, # 39117770
Co. A. 87 Mtn Inf.
APO 730 o/o P. M.
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Kenneth:

Thanks for sending me the clipping from the Peoples' World of San Francisco. A good job of reviewing.

I wish you would keep your eye out for men in whom the Institute might be interested after the war and let me know your ideas as to what fields it might then best concentrate on. The trustees are groping about for a new program.

This afternoon I am heading for Washington where I hope to see Howard Wiedermann, John Hazard and Francis Herron. I will tell them about my having heard from you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cordially yours,

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

87th Mtn. Inf.

ORGANIZATION

Jan. 14 '44

DATE

Dear Mr. Rogers—

Your letter reached me in Seattle when we arrived from the Aleutians. I located Miss Powell, but before I could reach her we left for this post, where we will be stationed for "at least three months." Within 24 hours of our arrival here, the entire outfit left on furlough. While in Berkeley I saw my father a number of times. I am glad to report that he no longer sees the necessity of our

+

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

estrangement. Time 2
often clears up ORGANIZATION
misunderstandings even if DATE
it seldom resolves differences
of opinion.

Today is the first
day of duty and this
evening my first
opportunity to write —
altho I foolishly planned
to find time during a
furlough.

I was pleased that
you asked my opinion
on post-war projects
for the Institute. Here are
some ideas developed
while doing close-order drill
or travelling and here
set down without the

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

reworking I'd
like to do.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Up to the present I believe Incwa has not paid special attention to Western Europe (?), and I believe correctly so.

But in the post war period I believe that region will assume an importance out of proportion to its future.

Socially, economically, politically it will be in transition -

- to what? It will be a meeting ground for America & Russia. What

happens there will give important clues for future developments in the rest of the world. Therefore I believe that Incwa should

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

include a project
on this area —

ORGANIZATION

DATE

with emphasis on socio-economic trends. [Question: Should England be included as part of this area?]

Another focal point [area] will certainly be China. Unless an appropos peace is made with Japan, she will take a position appropriate to her geography and China will emerge into permanent major importance. As in Europe there will be important social-economic questions — ^{but here} worth studying ~~as a key~~ as a key to the future of Asia; ~~part~~ ^{and} of the entire colonial system. These two areas I rate

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

with #1 priority
since in them
will center the development
of the two major current
world problems - the
reorganization of our
modern industrial society
[Europe] and the develop-
ment of "backward" areas
and peoples, i.e. the colonial
problem [China].

The Soviet Union will
of course be more impor-
tant than ever and
probably easier to work
in. What will the war
have done to her organization,
economic and political? I
believe the two projects
you considered [Science and
Planning] will still be

ORGANIZATION

DATE

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

worth doing — the _____
I believe the _____ ORGANIZATION
former might be broadened _____ DATE
to the question of world
science planning. There
will be a real need
for the latter — and
a very widely felt need.

South America — in
fact the whole Western
hemisphere seem destined
to be predominantly
an American field of
activity and for this
reason it seems to
me that what Herron
began should be
~~more~~ extended to give
complete coverage.

It seems to me that
Britain and her dominions
herself

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

with the possible
exception of India
will be of ^{peripheral} importance
as areas of study as will Japan,
Scandinavia, Africa.

Of course the only certain
thing about the future
is its uncertainty. Every-
thing depended on
how the great powers
come together and where.
England, the Balkans or
a Scandinavian country
might unexpectedly be
the scene of key develop-
ments.

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

I was going to make further suggestions, but they really amount to continuation of past projects — and indeed, with the exception of the suggestion on Western Europe, that is true of all the above. This, I hope, indicates the correctness and foresightedness of your past program rather than my lack of originality. Needless to say I am personally interested in the West European problem and the ^{Soviet} planning project. But that I hope to discuss with you when we have an opportunity.

CAMP CARSON, COLORADO

to "gossip".

ORGANIZATION

DATE

In many respects I have been fortunate in this war but I am still hopeful of finding some way of being of more use than a rifleman.

With best wishes for the new year

Kenneth May

PS: Re Canada, have you read Dixon Carter's "That man may Prosper"? [on plastics in Canada's future]. I don't have it, but am sending another book by him under separate cover. He ~~was~~ is stimulating tho apt to "ride" an idea [a fault?]

Will you give my greetings to Encounters and my regrets to Dennis Powell. I still don't have her complete address.

Jan 23 (1944)

Dear Mrs. Rogers

Since writing you I have been thinking about another possible area of study for an Incawa fellow — the role of religion today, particularly modern Christianity. Perhaps this is surprising since the modern world is supposed to be becoming less religious all the time. The scientific and religious spirits are in conflict. Nevertheless, the church not only still plays an important role, but there are signs that it is beginning to play a new role more in keeping with the times. Is the church adjusting itself to modern society instead of trying to hold society back? [Developments in the Church of England, the Greek Orthodox, and others]. Of course tons of material appears in this field but I doubt if anything has been done from a scientific viewpoint. An expert in this field would be useful to America.

Of course it's a ticklish field, but I believe the study of religion & its relation to modern society would be fruitful. Perhaps it might begin with a specific geographical area or religious area. It should of course, be based not just on documents but on the people involved and their organizational, social & economic relations.

Perhaps it's a cockeyed idea, but, if so, I've only worked 2 sheets of paper and five minutes of your time.

All goes as usual here. I am in the process of applying for more useful work.

Cordially,
Kenneth

February 1, 1944.

Pfc. Kenneth May,
Co. A. 87 Mountain Infantry,
2nd Army,
Camp Carson,
Colorado.

Dear Kenneth:

As I have been away this is the first opportunity I have had to acknowledge your letters of January 14th and 23rd, and the booklet "Men, Machines and Microbes", for all of which I thank you. I am especially glad that you and your father have reestablished friendly relations. I felt at the time, and still feel, that he showed little understanding and still less tact.

Your suggestions as to possible fields of future activity on the part of the Institute will be among those taken up by the trustees when they get around to determining on what the Institute should do in future. The religious field is one to which we have been giving thought. The present idea is to make a start in Latin America. Several people are making inquiries in the hope of turning up a proper person for the job.

I spent the last weekend in Montreal with Miss Leland and Parkin, who is helping her in many ways.

Parkin and Dunton, the Canadian Elmer Davis, told me the Bernal, whom I have a vague idea you met in London - Howard certainly did, has been for some time one of Churchill's closest advisers. Bernal, as a matter of fact has been living at 10 Downing Street' It is certainly notable that a scientist - and a liberal and progressive one at that - occupies such a key position.

Here's hoping that the Army will have the good sense to put you at tasks where your undoubted talents will be utilized and you will be forced to stretch your mind. I also hope to have a talk with you in the not too distant future, And in the meantime to hear from you occasionally.

Cordial Greetings,

P. S. Under separate cover I am sending to you reprints of two recent articles by John Hazard.

Reprints
sent, 2-1-44



Camp Carson Colorado
"In the shadow of Pike's Peak"

February 7, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Thank you for your letter and enclosure, as well as for John Hazard's articles.

It was good to get news of Bernal. He is related distantly to one of my mathematics professors at Berkeley, and I saw him many times in England. Didn't we have tea with him at Miss Muller's in the Spring of 1938? I often wonder what has happened to Jacques Solomon, Bernal's French counterpart in interests, both social and scientific, and in youthful stature. Probably the Nazis got him if the Vichyites didn't.

Sarton's letter is most interesting. He always stimulates me, because I can agree with so much while being prickled by his provocative differences — for example his approach to science as a spiritual — non-political phenomenon. This single

(over)

formulation would serve as the basis for many discussions. My guess is that his explanation of the popularity of his new course is the opposite of the true one. The war has emphasized the social importance of science, not its role as an escape!

Among the books mentioned in "Soviet Textbooks on Law" is

"Finansovoe Pravo" (Moscow, 1940).

Could I get hold of a copy, perhaps thru John? He may have an extra copy he could loan me or perhaps he knows how I could get one? At present

I'm reading a book of Russian stories but I would much

rather keep up my Russian by reading in planning. Incidentally, in spite of disuse, my languages seem to be in good repair.

Best wishes,

Kenneth

PS: Whoever addressed the envelope containing Hazard's reprints has a beautiful hand.

February 15, 1944.

Pfc. Kenneth O. May,
Co. A 87 Mountain Inft.,
2nd Army,
Camp Carson, Colorado.

Dear Kenneth:

Thank you for your letter of February 7th. I sent a copy to John Hazard with a request that he write you in regard to the Russian book about which you inquired.

On Saturday the Institute's finance committee, Moe, Parkin and Axelson, met here, but as no one felt that he knew in what direction affairs in general or the stock market in particular would take in the next few months, only routine problems were dealt with.

Yesterday Parkin and I went down town to have lunch with Lawrence Gould, director, Arctic, Desert, and Tropic Information Center, Army Air Forces. He, as you may know, was with Byrd in the Antarctic and is professor of geology, Carlton College. Tonight I am going with Trever Lloyd to hear him lecture on Canadian Oil resources. He knows the Arctic and professes in Dartmouth.

Cordial greetings,

February 21, 1944.

Pfc. Kenneth O. May,
Co. A. 87 Mountain Infantry,
Second Army,
Camp Carson, Colorado.

Dear Kenneth:

It now appears likely that I shall be in the Middle West about the middle of March. If you are to be about, how about my hunting you up?

Please keep me posted.

Cordial greetings,



Hale
Camp ~~Colorado~~ Colorado
In the shadow of Pikes Peak

Feb. 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Your note of the 21st reached me at this new post today. My regiment is here for final shape-up before moving out again. We should be here until the end of March.

Camp Hale is situated just west of the continental divide at Pando on the Denver & Rio Grande Railway. The nearest town of any size is famous, but run-down Leadville, just east of the divide.

Passes are available on weekends and I could reach either Denver or Colorado Springs for Saturday evening and Sunday until about 5 pm. It might be possible to get a two day pass so as to reach Denver Saturday morning, ^{or late Friday.} Since only 50% get passes each week-end, one



Camp Carson Colorado
"In the shadow of Pikes Peak"

2

cannot be certain, but I am confident I could swing it with two days notice.

Evening passes are available also, but Leadville is as far as one can get.

Transportation to and from this post, and accommodations here are both poor. Taxi service is available from Leadville. Visitors are permitted.

Telegrams will be delivered, tho there may be a few hours delay.

There is all the pertinent information. If convenient¹ for you, I believe Denver the best place to meet. I will be very pleased, if we are able to get together.

Regimental S-4 has



Camp Carson Colorado
"In the shadow of Pike's Peak"

an opening, and I understand that I am to be transferred there. If this goes thru I will let you know by wire since forwarding of mail within a regiment is very slow.

With best wishes, and greetings to our friends.

Cordially,

Kenneth

Note changes { No Mtn. No 2 nd Army APO.	}	Pfc Kenneth O. Gray 3911770
		Co A 87 Inf.
		A.P.O. 345
		Camp Hale, Colorado.

file

March 7, 1944.

Pfc. Kenneth O. May,
39117770
Co A 87 Inf.
A.P.O. 348
Camp Hale, Colorado.

Dear Kenneth:

I am sorry to say that I won't be able to get to Denver before the 18th. Please let me know if that will be convenient for you. Send your letter to me in care of the University Club, Chicago, marking it "Hold."

Lawrence Witt was in the office yesterday. Until about the first of the year he was in Ecuador for the Department of Agriculture. Now he doesn't know what is going to happen to him. The Department of Agriculture wants to send him to Columbia for a year and the Navy wants him for the agricultural section of supply.

An American aviator reports that in Alaska in the course of a conversation with a Russian aviator the latter asked if the American had any children. "One - six years old". The Russian retorted: "That's a good age. He will be just about ready in time to serve on the second front."

Cordial greetings,

file

Camp Hale
March 9, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers,
Your telegram and
letter of the 7th received.

The weekend of the
18th will be fine. I
hope to get a pass
which will enable me
to be there Saturday
and Sunday. At worst,
Saturday nite and Sunday.

The Brown Palace Hotel
is a good place to leave
messages. Unless I hear
from you I will go
there when I arrive
in Denver. If you let
me know where you
will stay I could
reach you by phone
from here in case of
delay. In the army,
there is always un-
certainty.

Cordially,
Kenneth.

file

March 22
/1944)

Dear Mr. Rogers,

This ski instruction is enjoyable, especially because it involves much cross country skiing, whose rhythm — like that of walking — I find excellent for meditation.

Our conversation leaves many implications to be thought out. But I am certain that the path you hinted at is one in which I could

3/ of California. A New York Irishman by the name of Al E. Flanigan, he is a most untypical graduate of Princeton, has worked as a welder and habitually travels by freight. In fact, when returning to California to his present job, he put his wife on the Pullman & then hopped the next fast freight! He is rugged physically and mentally, attractive personally, bold and intelligent — the kind of man who can go anywhere and get

use all and more than ^{1/2}
all my ability in the
most effective way.

In the light of our
discussion I have been
thinking again of possible
Institute fellows. One
such is a young mechanical
engineer with whom I
used to walk in the
hills when we were both
teaching assistants at
California. He later taught
at an eastern college and
~~is~~ is now doing defense
research at the University

4/ along with all kinds of people. He has broad social interests and understanding. I believe that he knows Russian & has visited the Soviet Union, ~~but~~ Perhaps, he may be a possibility for the Asiatic heartland project, but in any case he is a man worth knowing.

Have you considered the idea of a team for the heartland project? Say, a man each for the three main countries with perhaps a fourth to cover ~~the area~~ ^{the area as a whole} and coordinate?

15

Al Flanagan's address is
669 Woodmont, Berkeley
or % Dept. of Mechanical
Engineering, U. of C.

On the question of
England's next jump,
a valuable job could
be done, I believe, along
the ~~line~~ ^{with partial success} of what I
did in the spring of
'38. Did I tell you that
some of my conclusions
were confirmed by the
Gilling Poll a few weeks
later? Is this a possible

job for me now — a ¹⁶
short term project? Probably
not, but sometimes the
most unlikely ideas
turn out to be possible,
and more reasonable
ones impossible. My
friends, relatives & experience
in England would be
useful.

We are sleeping out
in the snow tonight and
I must stop for
preparations

Cordially
Kenneth

The recent escapes of German prisoners, and the involvement of American soldiers with our Nazi captives give us something to think about. We don't need to worry much about outright traitors like PFC Dale Maple, although it would be a pleasure to get our hands on an "American" who consciously helps Hitler. Fortunately there are few and our security agencies can be counted on to uncover such rats.

But what about those who consider themselves loyal Americans, yet take a tolerant attitude toward German prisoners, behaving toward them as if they were our friends? Japanese atrocities have had more recent publicity and no one would think of treating a Japanese prisoner with more than the consideration required by international law. Yet the Nazis have just as bad a record. These prisoners come from an army which has ravaged Europe, killing and enslaving millions of non-combatants, forcing thousands of women into army brothels, torturing and murdering people because of their religion, race, or belief in democracy. They have starved whole nations, destroyed their cultural treasures and removed their means of livelihood and happiness. They want to do the same to us.

Hitler has turned a whole generation of Germans into vandals, whose bestial behavior has not been equalled in modern times. German prisoners of war are part of this generation of "Supermen." We have seen them sneer at us, as we marched by. When guarding them we have been told that New York is in ruins, that Hitler will soon be here. Then of course, they hope to continue in America the career of vandalism which their capture interrupted. We'd as soon make friends with these men as with someone who had killed our buddy or raped our sister.

Many Nazi soldiers can be re-educated, but not through weakness on our part. As soldiers we can do most to re-educate Germans by smashing Hitler's army. Until unconditional surrender of the enemy, the only way we want to communicate with a Japanese or a German soldier is looking down the sights of an M-1, and it's up to us, who have seen that the war is no picnic, to straighten out those who don't yet know the score.

GENERAL JONES HELPED DRIVE JAPS OFF KISKA (continued from page 2)

his first overseas post since his service as a Lieutenant and Captain at Fort Stotsenberry, 60 miles out of Manila, before World War I.

The general, a spare, affable man with a ruddy complexion, keen blue-grey eyes and a grey clipped mustache, looks very much like the university president that his father was. (Dr. Jones, a Kentuckian, was for more than two score years successively a professor of Latin and Greek, Dean and President of the University of Missouri.)

The general, graduating from the University of Missouri, class of 1911, immediately won his commission as a second lieutenant in a competitive examination, although his only military experience had been a year and a half as a second lieutenant in the Missouri National Guard. He spent three months living the life of an infantry private at Fort Leavenworth, joined a pack artillery outfit in the Philippines, rose to a captaincy and returned to the States after the outbreak of the first world war, instructing at OTS, fore-runner of OCS. He was a lieutenant-colonel at the war's end.

General Jones has two sons in the service, one a first lieutenant the other a private, and both in the field artillery. Both were born in the General's native town, Columbia, Mo., seat of his alma mater. A daughter, Anne, 10, was born in Washington when the general was serving on the War Dept. General Staff.

In the words of another distinguished officer (and it's an opinion the Rucksack is proud to share), "We are fortunate to serve under so distinguished an officer."



UNITED STATES ARMY

Camp Hale
April 16, '44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Perhaps our letters will cross, but I want to keep you posted.

Col. Goode is leaving us. It is said he is to be made a general. Undoubtedly the regiment's performance in these exercises has been very good.

In one problem, we were pitted against a reinforced division and made them look pretty sad!

Col. Goode seems tops as a man and a soldier, and we are all sorry to see him go.

Your letter of April fourth and the fat envelope of letters

reached me in the field. Miss
Seland's and Miss Powell's letters
are most interesting. I am
looking forward to meeting
Miss Seland — she must be
a very dynamic person. Please
send me their letters as they
come out.

You would have been amused
to see under what conditions
I read this batch of letters.
In a three foot high mountain
tent, I lay in my sleeping
bag. In my left hand I
held a sock over a candle
(no fires permitted) in an
effort to dry it. In my
right, a letter. In this way
I dried a half a dozen socks
and read the letters. I will
be reminded of that afternoon
every time I see the

3/



UNITED STATES ARMY

burned spots on my socks,
result of the most interesting
passages.

In the same mail with
your letter, came a newsy
note from Persis Miller
at whose London apartment
you met Bernal. She
reports "Des" as asking for
me when she last saw
him. She is now working
in New York — with
the Joint Anti-Fascist
Refugee Committee — I believe.

I note that Carey
McC Williams has a Guggen-
heim fellowship to study
organized religion in the

4/ U.S. A good man and a good subject — but a very big one. I wonder whether he'll collect material already available, concentrate on some particular phase of the subject, or merely survey the field and indicate fruitful lines of study. One aspect of this question which interests me greatly is the role of the church in negro life. Before emancipation the church was the only legal organization, and the center of social, cultural and illegal activities. I believe that even today, when the negro is probably the most overorganized sector of the population, the church remains the most important center of political thought.



UNITED STATES ARMY

and action. As far as I know there has been no study of this phenomenon of the church as an instrument of a struggle for national freedom and social equality, while preserving and even exaggerating the characteristics of the church of the dominant national group.

This is one of those periods when the air is full of rumors: where we are going, when, what they are going to "do with us", why, furloughs, etc. Even heard a rumor this morning that I am to be invited or ordered to OCS in two weeks!

Cordially, Kenneth



UNITED STATES ARMY

April 21, '44

Dear Mr. Rogers —

Thank you for the interesting clipping. Enclosed is an article which may be a translation of the one referred to. Hindus' comments are timely, since American policy and public opinion ought to be based on something more solid than wishful thinking. I believe this and similar articles are part of the attempt to construct an economic theory of the existing socialist system in the USSR. They are not expressions of policy or proposals for change.

I look forward to your promised letter.

Cordially
Kenneth



UNITED STATES ARMY

Camp Hale
May 2, '44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

You remember the quartet
in Denver which sang "Star Dust"
as representative of America's spirit?
I wrote of this incident and
the general questions it raised in
my mind to a young music
student at Colorado College while
at Camp Carson, I ~~had~~ ^{became acquainted}
^{with} her in a circle of musicians
and artists of whom the leading
figure is composer Roy Harris.
In her answer, she showed she
had done some thinking about
the question of the development of
folk singing, mass singing,
and participation in and appreciation
of music in America and other
countries.



UNITED STATES ARMY

Would there be pay dirt in a study of musical education in the Soviet Union? This would include the development of talent in composition and performance as well as collective musical activity. It might be broadened to include the organization of and social support to and participation in musical life. I am inclined to think that a research project of this type would be interesting in itself, and would provide an educational base for study of American problems in this field.

It is easier to be sure of a topic than a person but I am sure that this young woman is worth taking a chance on — a fellowship



UNITED STATES ARMY

Perhaps there is here a person-topic combination which might be of interest to you.

The person is this young woman (of 22), with a B.S. from Juillard School of Music (major in Piano). She is now working for her M.A. at Colorado College and doing some teaching at the same time. I doubt if she will become a great performer or composer, but she combines musical knowledge, competence, and skill with an appreciation of music's social setting and significance. I have a hunch that she could do significant work in this field.

The topic I had in mind is the question of musical education (minimum) or the organization of music in general (maximum breadth).



UNITED STATES ARMY

would enable one to see soon enough. There would be ample time for her to solve the language problem before the European situation permits study in the U.S.S.R.

I am attaching excerpts from her letter.

Recently, a notice was posted in the Camp library asking for applications for Ordnance specialists' schools, which it said, are not up to their quotas. Applications are supposed to be sent thru channels to Washington for action. A number of men applied. All I know of have received theirs back on the basis that quotas are filled stopped by the division's my job today was counting shovels.

I am in good health and spirits. Will write you again about some interesting readings. Div done
Cordially HQ



Excerpt from letter of Ruth Doak,
816 N. Wahsatch, Colorado Springs
to Kenneth May. April, 1944.

UNITED STATES ARMY

".....Several weeks ago at a business meeting of our newly formed forum group on campus, I threw the same general topic into the ring for consideration as a topic for one of the regular meetings. One navy man answered the lack of a good war song by suggesting that perhaps we don't know what we are fighting for; another said that perhaps the American Melting Pot hasn't melted yet, i.e. we are not yet one whole people and therefore not capable of producing folk-songs. The last suggestion seems particularly false in that all of our folk-songs have come from highly differentiated groups of people--the Negro at work and at worship, the people in the backwoods of Kentucky, the cowboy, chain gang prisoners, etc; and from other countries the same is true--the bawdy ballads and religious songs from England and the Low Countries, the developing cultures all with separate folk customs and songs in the Soviet Union, etc.

"It seems more correct to say that the American Melting Pot has crystallized. The trend here has been toward highly individualized lives--each family lives as much alone as economic circumstances permit and the family unit is seldom a living reality even after working hours. (The farm life of this country I am not familiar with, but probably the family unit is closer and more of an entity). What I am trying to say is this--that folk songs come out of mass living and mass activity. The only farmfolk-songs I know are the Palestinian harvest songs and their equivalent--the result of group gatherings at harvest time. All the dance-songs, sea-songs, etc. from all over the world uphold this view, the one exception being the cowboy songs of lone wandering.

".....That seems to be the crux of the problem here--we do so few things together. But when we do, we want to sing--and so badly that we content ourselves with pure junk like "Old MacDonald" and "99 Beerbottles".A few good songs may be integrated by individuals but there is never time to learn them, and off everyone tears to his own little groove with its background of radio canned music and jukebox blues.....

"Music not only grows out of society and reflects it--but it also shapes ~~it~~ it--witness the Greek use of music-poetry finely divided into scales each with its particular function in promoting "ethos": one for patriotism, one for courage, etc. The Gregorian chant of the Catholic Middle Ages, the church music of Bach in rising Protestant Germany, the dance suites and flamboyant opera of the Louis XIV period, etc etc, and finally the romantic ooings of the last century leading into a period of emotional and technical gymnastics at the turn of the century.

.....
"Great as the limitations of education are in dealing with any problem (in terms of immediate accomplishment), it would seem to be the focal point in this case, in this country, for the time being. And the possibilities are many. The public schools are places of mass activity. Music teaching is much less controlled by traditional and political pressure. Progressive creative teaching from kindergarten on could have a tremendous effect, and lay the basis for mass singing which could be carried on in places of group activity. The prospect is particularly good, as the teaching of music from the dogmatic scale-minded grade school teacher to the non-scientific or even non-sensical teaching in ~~the~~ the finest conservatories is incredibly bad. It is becoming obvious that something has to be done. ...

"A study of musical education in the ^{U.S.A.} S.U.--which would certainly include folk songs and mass singing--seems fruitful in terms of future application....."



UNITED STATES ARMY

May 14/44

Buy Gen. Emory Upton
The Military Policy of the
United States
Published by the Govt Printing Office

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Recently I read an interesting book on U. S. Army Policy — "America in Arms" by Gen. Dwight McAuley Palmer. It is one of the Fighting Forces Series published by the Infantry Journal. ^(25¢) The author brings out historical facts on military policy which gave me a new slant. Evidently he represents a minority in army circles but one which is destined to become a majority since his views seem consistent with our historical traditions and future needs. Palmer shows that the "big army" advocates have

misunderstood Washington's views on military policy. Starting from a ~~careful~~ careful analysis of Washington's advocacy of a "respectable defensive posture" based on a "well regulated militia", the General urges the adoption of universal training — but not for a standing army. He advocates a citizen soldiery based on universal training, and working on a democratic basis with a standing army only large enough to do those jobs which cannot be done by part-time soldiers.

I can't repeat here his many interesting historical points or his suggestions on policy. But the spirit is thoroughly democratic thru-



UNITED STATES ARMY

out. His final proposal, that our military establishment be planned by a civilian board, utilizing expert testimony from all the services, is typical.

Incidentally, the Fighting Forces Series is a significant publishing venture. At a cost of only 25¢, the Infantry Journal makes available important popular books originally published elsewhere (eg Ingersoll's "Battle is the Pay-Off") and books specially published for the Services (eg "Psychology for the Fighting Man"). The series is excellent for increasing the soldiers' knowledge.

background and understanding.
The Infantry Journal also
puts out attractive graphic
manuals — based on GI
manuals but avoiding the
ridiculous stilted language,
and utilizing photographs,
cartoons etc. I note that
the most recent GI manuals
have begun to unbend &
adopt more modern methods.

A really good subject
awaiting the right man is
"The US Army". I know of
no critical study. Everything
I've seen on the subject is
either official or almost so.
There are a number of
interesting phases of the subject
which need thinking about:
What (if any) is American
military doctrine? Why is



UNITED STATES ARMY

our army weak in theory?
what is the signif cause of
the theory of "common sense"
(all the theory which penetrates
to the lower ranks)? Is
the handling of the morale factor
outdated? How does our
basic training stack up in terms
of battle efficiency? How does
the personnel system work in
practice? Method of picking
non-commissioned officers?
commissioned officers? etc. etc.
Of course this isn't a job for
wartime, nor would anyone
outside the general staff have
all the information desirable. Still,
no one inside the general staff
will be likely to write the
kind of stimulating they needed.
Utilizing information generally
available, and drawing on

the experiences of servicemen, a "general reporter" could, after the war, make some valuable contributions to improving our military establishment. I believe that the public will maintain a greater interest in military matters after this war than they did the last.

After a long period of boredom, a few interesting things have happened lately. I did a little ski instruction last week. Then S-2 chose me as one of a number of discussion leaders for orientation forums on GI time. I enjoyed very much leading a company discussion on "What is Fascism" last Saturday. The response was

pleasing. On top of these events, I suddenly got a three day pass in the middle of the week as a reward for "sticking out" the maneuver.

On the same day I learned I would get my furlough this week! So in a day or two I'll be on my way to Berkeley, where I'll be reachable at 2330 Vine street until the 29th.

Cordial greetings,

Kenneth Gray

Grant

PS: I received and answered a letter from Mr. Gould. He sounded very encouraging.

May 16, 1944.

Dr. L. M. Gould, Chief, Arctic Section,
Arctic, Desert, and Tropic
Information Center,
25 Broad St.,
New York 4, New York.

Dear Dr. Gould:

In 1936 while in Moscow I met the Director of the Institute of the Central Administration of National Economy who told me that students in his Institute, among other subjects, studied higher mathematics, especially the theory of probabilities and the theory of statistics and their utilization in connection with planning. In response a question he expressed a willingness to accept an American student who had had advanced mathematical training, who knew Russian, and who had the ability to adapt himself to the environment in which he would have to work.

With the approval of the trustees of the Institute of Current World Affairs, who for some time had been seeking an approach to the study of national planning in the U.S.S.R., I sought for a suitable person. By all odds, the most promising person whom I found was Kenneth May. He was then doing advanced work in the Department of Mathematics, University of California. Professor Evans, under whom May was working assured me that May not only possessed exceptional mathematical talent coupled with intensity of application but was also a person of fine character and attractive personality.

May had received his A.B. with "highest honors in mathematics" in May 1936. At the end of the following academic year he was given an M.A. in mathematics and had completed formal course requirements for a Ph.D.

May, having been assured of funds by the Institute of Current World Affairs, studied Russian and late in the summer of 1937 went to Moscow. There he was given every consideration, but it turned out that his training had been such that the courses being given by the Institute of the Central Administration of National Accounting were not then sufficiently advanced to provide him with anything worth while.

After a few months in Moscow he went to England where he continued his studies. During the following academic year he studied in Paris under certain professors who specialized in advanced probabilities and statistics. From them he learned of a Russian professor with whom they were exchanging ideas. May visited the professor, in Kiev I believe. He then returned to the University of California as an instructor in

mathematics and started work on his Ph.D. Thesis.

In due time he was inducted into the Army and assigned to the 87th Mountain Infantry, probably because he is an expert skier and mountaineer. He landed on Kiska with the first wave of Americans and was there for five and a half months. He is now with his regiment at Camp Hale, Colorado.

May undoubtedly has a first-class mathematical mind and has received exceptionally good training. He is an energetic, attractive person of excellent character and sound instincts. He is a grand person to have about.

A frank, honest statement requires that the following be said. While an undergraduate in the University of California he became engaged to the daughter of a professor whom his father disliked. The father, who is head of the Department of Public Administration in the University of California, is the go-getter type of a professor. His wife, who I have been told was one of the most attractive women about the university, was killed many years ago as result of a gas stove explosion.

While May was in England the girl went there to marry him. The father learning of the girl's intention, hurried to England to stop the marriage. The young people told him to run along. He did, not even waiting to attend the ceremony.

After May had returned to the University of California, he appeared before the local school board as one of a group representing various minor parties in a matter having to do with the use of school auditoriums. The following morning a San Francisco newspaper carried a routine paragraph in regard to the meeting, in which it was stated that Kenneth May represented the Communist party. That morning the father, who as chairman of the State Council of National Defense, was in the Capitol seeking an appropriation. When the newspaper item was called to his attention, he went off the bat completely. He issued a statement in which he denounced his son as a communist and announced that he not only repudiated the young man but would disinherit him. This, of course, created an issue and resulted in a good deal of publicity. The young man left the university and took a job with the Communist party in connection with its educational activities.

When Selective Service went into operation May asked to be classified as 1A, but his local board for many months refused to so classify him because of his connection with the Communist party.

My opinion - and that of many others - is that his father acted very badly. The father and son, however, have reestablished friendly relations.

I saw Kenneth May in Denver two or three months ago, and I haven't the slightest doubt in regard to his loyalty or to his essential Americanism, nor for that matter of his very unusual ability. Everyone connected with the Institute of Current World Affairs holds him in high regard.

Yours sincerely,

Enclosed: Copy of
parts of letter from
Kenneth May.

From a letter sent to W.S.R. by Kenneth May
under date of February 15, 1937.

The following is a list of principal subjects studied
since entering college:

- Mathematics:** College Algebra, Theory of Equations, Logistic, Plane and Solid Analytic Geometry, Projective Geometry, Algebraic Geometry, Advanced Calculus, Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations, Functions of a Complex Variable, and Real Variable Theory.
- Economics:** Elementary course, History of Economic Doctrine, and Mathematical Economics. In the last named I have been particularly interested in mathematical work based on measurable quantities and the concepts of statistics and accounting.
- Statistics:** A course including the study of multiple correlation, curve fitting, and Pearson's and Charlier's Curves.
- Languages:** I have a good reading knowledge of French, German, and Italian.
- Miscellaneous:** Physics, Chemistry, Navigation, Naval Science and Tactics, Philosophy.

As an undergraduate I took part in various student activities. For example, I was secretary of the Student Institute of Pacific Relations (1933), a councilor of Phi Beta Kappa, a member of the Student Judicial Council (entrusted by the president of the University with cases of student discipline), and chairman of the Open Forum connected with the Associated Students. I won a letter in varsity soccer. At present I have the following affiliations: American Mathematical Society, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Mu Epsilon (Mathematics), Sigma Xi (Science), Order of the Golden Bear (Senior Society), American Federation of Teachers (I am a teaching assistant at the University), and the Sierra Club of California.

In connection with the last named club, I was co-founder of its Rock Climbing Section and have acted as mountaineering guide and instructor on its outings. I am a third class skier (British Ski Club and A.M.C. standards) and have made numerous mountaineering ascents, some in the Extra Severe class (Bavarian standards).

May 18, 1944.

Ms
Cpl. Kenneth O. May,
2330 Vine Street,
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Kenneth:

Moe was sufficiently interested in your letter of May 2nd and the excerpts from Miss Doak's letter to you to start inquiry in regard to her.

After reading your letter of May 14th he asked me to call your attention to a book by Brig. Gen. Emory Upton, "The Military Policy of the United States", published by the Government Printing Office. Your suggestions, according to Moe, represent bringing that book, which is now forty or more years old, upto date. Both Moe and I think highly of your provocative idea.

The same delivery that brought your letter brought one from Larry Witt in which he says that he has been assigned to Columbia for a year's work as chief of an agricultural survey mission.

I am glad to know that you enjoyed your ski instructing and your leading a discussion group, and I hope you enjoy your furlough.

At the request of Dr. Gould I prepared a "booster" memo. in regard to you. He and his immediate assistant, Major Flint, indicated to me that they would try to get you transferred to their shop. Gould's Chief, Lt-Col. Carlson, is an old friend of mine. At a meeting here the other day to organize an Institute for Arctic Research I put in a plug with him.

Cordial greetings and good luck.

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
DIRECTOR, ARCTIC, DESERT, AND TROPIC
INFORMATION CENTER
25 BROAD ST., NEW YORK, 4, N. Y.

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY AIR FORCES TACTICAL CENTER
ARCTIC, DESERT, AND TROPIC INFORMATION CENTER
25 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, 4, N. Y.



LMG/hks

27 May 1944

file May

Mr. Walter Rogers
Institute for Current World Affairs
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you very much for the detailed information about Kenneth May. He certainly is a man with a background which could be put to much better use here than in his present assignment. We have accordingly instituted proceedings from this office asking for his transfer to ADTIC. To be sure there is an Army Regulation now which prohibits the transfer of personnel from Ground Forces to the Air Forces. However, we can make such a very good case for his transfer that I believe it may go through.

Colonel Carlson is quite as eager as I am to secure May's transfer and no stone will be left unturned.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. M. Gould".

L. M. GOULD
Chief, Arctic Section



DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION ROOM
SERVICE MEN'S CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO

June 7, 1944

Dear Mrs. Rogers:

In an hour the bus leaves for Camp Hale and so ends a very enjoyable furlough.

To me the most pleasant thing about a furlough is leisure — time to waste on worthwhile things.

So I spent several entire days on Russian, opening up the brain paths partially obliterated by time and bringing my reading speed up again. With this start I'll be able to follow through in G.I. spare time so as to be ready for whatever is required.

Professor Evans was in Washington, (He is returning this week to U.S.A.) so I couldn't see him. However, I talked to Dean Lipman of the graduate division and learned that my advancement to candidacy is still alive so that I have only

to satisfy the department and my committee; formal preliminaries being completed. I had very pleasant visits with Professor Noble and with Professor Neyman. The latter, under whom I studied at London and later at U.C., is head of the statistics there. He is a Pole, who studied in the Soviet Union in the early years, then migrated to Poland, England and finally California. He is remarkably acute on social questions and I can't understand how I neglected to have you meet him. Be sure to look him up, if you get to California.

Professor Rogin, (history of economic doctrine) for whom I once wrote a paper on Pareto, had lunch with me and we had a stimulating conversation on economic theory and mathematical models.

I made a call on Provost Deutsch who was so cordial I couldn't get a word in edgewise. He is busy stirring up post-war

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION ROOM
SERVICE MEN'S CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO

international collaboration.

Captain R. M. Leonard, with whom I founded the Rock Climbing Section of the Sierra Club years ago, is now stationed in California. He is working with a quartermaster corps unit similar to Gould's in the air corps and worked with them when he was in the East. He spoke very highly of the group and offered to write a letter if it would help. However, it is my impression that the decision is now in other hands. It may be that ^{Army Ground Forces} ~~A.G.F.~~ will be the stumbling block.

Incidentally, I saw Al Flanagan. He seems to have "settled" a bit, although I think the spark is still there.

Dad was in excellent health. Among other good works he

is busy with a monthly, published by the Bureau — "Postwar California" a digest and news bulletin on postwar planning in the U.S. It is useful as a guide in this confused, yet central, field.

~~Recently~~ I read somewhere an announcement of a book by Harold Moulton on the Post-war. Do you have an extra copy? Do you know the title? I'd like to know what he is thinking.

The Normandy invasion gives the impression of brilliant sober planning, against which the Germans will be unable to stand in spite of greater experience.

We seem to be showing the world what American production and American people can do.

Cordially
Kenneth

PS: I'd like to blame this letter's faults on the five band that's in entering the soldiers here. Perhaps in a "square".

June 12, 1944.

Pfc. Kenneth O. May,
39117770 Co. A. 87 Inf.,
A.P.O. 345 Camp Hale,
Colorado.

Dear Kenneth:

I am glad to learn that you are again fully acceptable at the University of California and that your father is thriving. If I ever get to the University I will hunt up Professor Neyman. Thanks for the suggestion.

At few days ago at the office of the Arctic, Desert and Tropic Groups, Lt. Col. Carlson, who is in Chicago, confirmed that efforts are underway to secure your transfer.

I don't know the book by Moulton to which you refer, but I will make inquiry and have a copy sent to you.

Cordial greetings,



UNITED STATES ARMY

June 16, '44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thank you for your letter of the 12th. The isolation of this camp tends to make one forget that things are moving outside, and I was glad to have confirmation of efforts toward my transfer.

Since arriving back at camp, I have been devoting most of my spare time to Russian, reading "Forgotten Stories," a collection of short pieces by Gorky, originally omitted from his collected works. What a writer!

The army provides good elementary language aids in the

form of two sided records which give enough words and phrases for subsistence. I wonder whether anyone has worked out a sort of Basic Russian, ~~all~~ with which the future traveler, student, and business man could get along in Russia, understandably if not grammatically. It is amazing how many Russian words are English plus a Russian ending. By using these when possible, skipping ending difficulties and verb subtleties it might be possible to work out a basic vocabulary which would be as easy to learn as a basic French vocabulary, easier as regards pronunciation.

In consideration being given by foundations and universities to the probability of a shift in the desire of young people to study abroad? Certainly, the German and other continental

3/ institutions will be less attractive and have less prestige, while students will ^{more often} desire to study in the USSR both because of social curiosity and the increasing prestige of Soviet science and medicine. If good relations continue, it may even become a fad to visit and to study a little about and in the Soviet Union. Exchange fellowships?

Just as ~~near~~ the increased economic importance ^{to us} of Latin America leads to increased teaching of Spanish and Latin American history, won't the new position of Russia and its importance in the post-war export picture, lead to increased teaching of Russian & Russian history, possibly to the teaching of Russian in the High Schools.

(It will have far more practical use and ^{as} almost as much cultural use as French, but I suppose here I am forgetting tradition

and the difficulty of changing ideas of what constitutes an education)

We expect to move soon to another post in the United States, from which we will probably go overseas after several weeks of reorganization and training. Orientation, as a "non-essential" has been dropped, there being time

~~for the time being during moving~~
only for such things as close order drill and repetition of instruction on which we are already stale.

I hope you will excuse the hasty, rough cut and unmeditated character of these letters. Conditions prevent anything else.

With cordial greetings
Kenneth

PS: I may have been confused on the question of a recent book by Moulton - might have been only an article.

Camp Swift, Texas
June 29, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The 10th Division, of which the 87th Inf. is a part, moved here during the last week. I am enjoying the heat, which clears up coughs and sinus trouble. Camp Swift seems to have all the amenities lacking at Hale, including swimming pools, beer gardens, and good transportation to nearby Austin the state capital and site of the university.

I am writing this at the post morale office, where I came to inquire about courses available on the post and to offer my services in answer to a bulletin requesting teachers. I ended by spending the evening here in pleasant conversation. The orientation program here is

2/ on a high level.

Moulton sent me three very interesting pamphlets. I will write to thank him.

G.C. Evans, whom I missed on furlough, has written me a letter confirming that I need only present a satisfactory thesis to complete my Ph.D. He even makes some suggestions as to topic.

I am inquiring about some daily Russian newspaper to which I might subscribe. This is the most convenient way of bettering my reading knowledge under army conditions.

With cordial greetings,

Kenneth

July 6, 1944

Pfc. Kenneth O. May, 39117770,
Co. A, 87th Inf.,
APO 345, Camp Swift, Texas.

Dear Kenneth:

This is to acknowledge your letters of June 18th and 29th. I was away for about ten days.

Sometime during the summer I am expecting to be at Cornell for a few days to take a look at what may be going on in its summer courses on Russia. While there I will inquire as to whether there is available anything in the nature of Basic Russian.

I am glad to know Evans' attitude toward your completing your work for a Ph.D. I still think that getting the degree should be one of your first chores after you regain a civilian status. I am also glad to know that you take kindly to Camp Swift and that there are possibilities of your finding some interesting intellectual work to do.

A few days ago a letter came in from Tom Blakemore. As soon as copies are available, one will be sent to you.

I wrote Moulton and he replied that the pamphlets were being sent to you.

Had a postcard the other day from Howard who is taking a "breather" in the "Smokies."

Cordial greetings,

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

July 16, '44.

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thanks for your letter
of the 6th.

We are settled here now,
and the camp is as pleasant
on closer acquaintance as it
seems at first sight.

I am subscribing to
Russki Golos — which will
give me daily reading in
Russian. I find it easy
to read without the
dictionary, altho a few
new words appear in
every article.

Have you ever considered
Africa as a possible

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

field of study for an Institute fellow? Africa completely carved up by the big powers and without any great ^{continental} liberation movement, the region's great natural resources would seem to guarantee it's playing a role in the coming decades. Africa should be important to America for a number of reasons (1) Proximity - ease of trade access and importance for defense of the Americas. (2) The racial ties of Africa's people and ~~out~~ 13,000,000 Negro Americans. America is the only country outside of Africa with such

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

a large and well educated
Negro population. Africa
needs capital development.
These factors and our
already existing interests
arising from the war
ought to make Africa
an important region to
the U.S.A. And it is
certainly one about
which we know very
little.

In so far as one can
plan, I am thinking
of the first six months
after my discharge ~~is~~^{as} being
set aside for writing a
thesis in mathematical
economics.

Cordially,
Kenneth

file
Courtesy of
SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

August 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers:
Just a note to keep you
up to date:

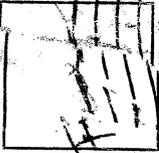
FOLD HERE → Last nite I was called
before an officers candidates' board,
FOLD HERE ← ~~just~~ I thought the paper in
my application must have
crumbled with age. The board was
most friendly and seemed to
be considering me for ^{or} gérance,
altho the Lt man remarked
that my low wages suited me for
intelligence work. In any case,
a commission in any branch
would facilitate transfer to
the Arctic Group or any other con-
genial and useful post.

The only indications of action
on the possible New York assignment
are inquiries by higher authorities
as to my knowledge of Russian
and by post 5-2 as to my
integrity.

FOLD HERE → This morning, at a regimental
parade, I was among about
30 awarded the "Expert Infantry-
man's Badge" FOLD HERE ←

We expect to go on maneuvers
very soon.
With most cordial greetings
Kenneth

P. Kenneth Gray 911111
Co A 87 Inf APO 845
Camp Swift, Texas



DO NOT
WRITE HERE

To Mrs. Walter S. Rogers
522-5¹/₂ Avenue
N.Y. - N.Y.

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

FOLD HERE

FOLD HERE

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

August 27/44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Our first sergeant has finally received some prints of his Kiska pictures. Enclosed is one he took of the "best" beards about a month after the landing. An order to shave came out soon after. The man second from your left in the back row is Metzger, a well-known mountaineer from Portland and my platoon sergeant at that time.

Friday. I was called for O.C.S. physical exam. Altho nothing has been

2/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

said, I doubt whether they would call me for this examination unless I had passed the board a week before. However, for what school or for what time I was accepted I haven't any idea. For all I know it could be the assignment with Gould, or it might be ordnance or infantry.

Work continues very much the same here.

The expected maneuvers have been called off.

With cordial greetings
Kenneth

KENNETH MAY



KISKA- 1943

Sept. 6, 1944

Pfc. Kenneth May, 39117770,
Co. A, 87th Inf.,
Camp Swift, Texas.

Dear Kenneth:

Thanks very much for the Kiska picture. I am more than pleased to have it. I know you have kept the smile, but why not also the whiskers?

I hope that by the time this reaches you you will have received an assignment more to your liking. But the army is the army, so if nothing eventualizes, don't take it to heart.

Nothing much happening around here except that, for some occult reason, Miss Powell has decided that I should do some work. But I must conserve my energies in order to be fit to celebrate duly Armistice Day.

Cordial greetings,

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

Sept. 24, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers,

you touched on a
sore point when you
~~you~~ asked why I
didn't keep the whiskers.

Soon after the picture was
taken, a task force order
came out requiring men
to be clean shaven [except
for moustaches] and to
have their hair cropped
close. I suffered both

spiritually and physically
in carrying out the
order. For a few hours

2/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

I attempted to keep the
moustache, but I
looked so villainous
and looked so many
cries of "Gestapo" that
it had to come off too.

I noted with interest
John O. Crane's letter
to Life requesting reprinting
of Demidov's answer to
Bullet. I noted also that
Life did not comply in
full — notably omitting
Demidov's assertion that
Bullet by including one
lie every five lines
had "set a world's record,
~~and~~^{thus} arousing the envy
of Goebbels..." As

3/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

far as I can see, no language could be too strong to describe Bullitt's article, but politeness is highly valued nowadays & no doubt Life felt Demidov to be a trifle crude.

Among these men I have observed in the army there is a great hope that the "crudes" will win over the "polites" in dealing with the Germans.

Army sentiment seems to be pretty

4/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

clear also on the presidential election. In nearby Austin, when Dewey came on the screen, there were scattered hisses. For Roosevelt, almost an ovation. At the post theater the other nite, the men maintained complete silence for a newsreel of Dewey's opening speech until he said that men were being kept in the army because Roosevelt feared unemployment. God knows these men want to go home, but this

5/

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CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

demagoguery was too much,
and they booed Dewey
loudly. When FDR
came on a few moments
later, the crowd
cheered loud and long.

It seems that
Dewey is Roosevelt's
best campaigner.

The pro-Roosevelt
movement in Texas
is a real grass roots
affair — "nobody's"
organized from the
precinct conventions
on up and beat the
machine. I was

6/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

fortunate enough to get
some of the inside
story. It is remarkable,
and a good omen for
the South.

On the question
of Miss Powell's
efforts to make
you work harder, I
don't intend to become
involved in any way.
However, if "work"
includes writing letters
to me, I heartily
second her efforts
most cordially

Kenneth
Regards to Miss Powell & Incawaites

file

SERVICE CLUB

CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

Sept 28, 44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Finally, I have definite word on O.C.S. I was put "on order" to report October 5th at the Ordnance O.C.S. (Aberdeen, Maryland). This was last Saturday. Monday an order came out cancelling the paragraph containing my order. I inquired the reason and was told that G-2 will not clear me for O.C.S. The division G-2 would not see me, but told me indirectly that it was not his decision. I imagine

2/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

that this is final, barring
a change of government
policy.

There is no other news.

I am feeling fine

Cordially,

Kenneth

PS: Since the original order
was generally distributed,
and the revocation
was by number, friends
will probably be under
the impression I am
at OCS.

file

Oct. 12, 1944

Pfc. Kenneth O. May, 39117770,
Co. A, 87th Inf.,
Camp Swift, Texas.

Dear Kenneth:

Curses on those who are so bigotted as not to do justice.
Well, don't take it too seriously. Your turn, I am sure,
will come to enable you to play an important part, if not in
the army then in civilian life.

Nothing doing around here worth reporting.

Cordial greetings.

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

Oct 16 (1944)

Dear Mr. Rogers,

thanks for your
note of the 12th

I have met a
man and heard of
another whom you might
find worth knowing.

The first is a Dr. ?

W. Zimmerman, apparently
purchased by U.T. a
couple of years ago and
designated "Distinguished

Professor of Resources." With
him, the term resources

covers all long run

assets - demographic
cultural, political, technical,
"natural" etc. He is
interested in the broadest

type of economic-political problems. Perhaps, partly because of superficial characteristics, he made me think of Howard Wedemann altho he's old enough to be the latter's father.

When we first talked, he spoke with great enthusiasm of his assistant when he was Director of Research for the President's Committee on Puerto Rico. He had been greatly impressed by this young man's ability and courage. His name is Harry M. Shooshan, Jr. From a Boston family, he majored in Political Science at Harvard and worked as assistant to the Assistant Secty of the Interior. He

3/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

must be about 24 now and
is a naval lieutenant.

If he impressed Zimmerman
so much perhaps he
is worth looking over.

There is a row now
going on here, to decide
whether U.T. will be
a University or not.

If the reactionaries win,
it will be another
Georgia. The president,
Dr. Rainey, is taking
a very forthright stand
and has the backing of
religious groups.

my orientation
work has born some
fruit. The C.O. takes

great pride in it and shows it off to so many other officers that there has been increased activity in other companies. Orientation men come over to see what we are doing. Last Friday, the 4th Army inspected and rated our day room the best in the division. This makes it easier to get time to work and materials to work with. But most gratifying is the sharp and maintained increase in soldier interest. The men are following the news from day to day, asking questions, discussing, and wanting to understand. There are signs that the army is awake to the importance of this work.

5/

SERVICE CLUB
CAMP SWIFT, TEXAS

and my own experience
proves the dividends it
brings in higher morale.

For example, last
Friday, the Hearst papers
ran a phony story on
a "Churchill-Roosevelt Split
with Stalin". It ran
like wild fire thru the
camp causing real concern
& gloom. But in ^{the} Companies
where orientation men
were on the job, this
phony story had an
early demise. In ours,
we discussed it the
next morning, and I
was delighted to find
that the men had
learned so much in our
previous sessions on

enemy propoganda methods
that they themselves picked
the story to pieces on
the basis of its source,
publisher, content, and
purpose. For those who
missed the discussion
we made a poster,
displaying the story
with explanatory
comments and authentic
AP & UP stories of the
same date which showed
the continuing allied
unity & progress in
solution of problems.

Dewey is really
missing a trick. He
could seize on the orientation
program & claim that
commissars are being
introduced in the U.S.
Army!

Regards to Helen &

Cordially
Kenneth

COPY

Service Club,
Camp Swift, Texas,
Oct. 16, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Thanks for your note of the 12th.

I have met a man and heard of another whom you might find worth knowing. The first is a Dr. E. W. Zimmerman, apparently purchased by U.T. a couple of years ago and designated "Distinguished Professor of Resources." With him, the term resources covers all long run assets - demographic, cultural, political, technical, "natural," etc. He is interested in the broadest type of economic-political problems. Perhaps, partly because of superficial characteristics, he made me think of Howard Wiedemann altho he's old enough to be the latter's father.

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For example, last Friday, the Hearst papers ran a phony story on a "Churchill-Roosevelt Split with Stalin." It ran like wildfire thru the camp causing real concern and gloom. But in companies where orientation men were on the job, this phony story had an early demise. In ours, we discussed it the next morning, and I was delighted to find that the men had learned so much in our previous sessions on enemy propaganda methods that they themselves picked the story to pieces on the basis of its source, publisher, content, and purpose. For those who missed the discussion we made a poster, displaying the story with explanatory comments and authentic AP and UP stories of the same date which showed the continuing allied unity and progress in solution of problems.

Dewey is really missing a trick. He could seize on the orientation program to claim that commissars are being introduced in the U.S. Army!

Cordially,

Kenneth (May)

October 31, 1944

Kenneth O. May, Pfc.,
#39117770, Co. A, 87th Inf.
APO 345,
Camp Swift, Texas.

Dear Kenneth:

Thanks for your letter of October 16th. I have been in Chicago for nine days where I went to talk with Axelson, Wilson and Schultz in regard to matters that are likely to come up at the Institute's annual meeting December 2nd. O'Flaherty is now living in Washington, and I expect to see him there some time during the next few days. It now seems as though we might reasonably soon get under way again as an operating agency.

Shoosham looks worth while. When you next see Zimmerman you might get for me Shoosham's address. Without it, I don't know how to go about locating him.

Your orientation course activities greatly appeal to me. If some time you would develop into a memorandum your experiences in that connection, I am sure the trustees of the Institute would be glad to read it.

From bits that I have picked up here and there I have come to feel that the middlewestern (north and south) universities are moving in a reactionary direction. Perhaps this represents an aspect of a deep trend in feeling on the part of large numbers of people of different classes.

Cordial greetings and good luck.



87th Infantry Regiment

Nov. 2, '44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Local boy makes good at last!
Tuesday, Lt-General Sear, inspected our division. At our company he paid particular attention to the day room of which I am in charge as part of my orientation work. Sear and I carried on a ten minute conversation about orientation. Two hours later I was promoted to corporal by request of C. G. A. G. F. What the by-products will be is not yet clear, but it is hard to place a value on a lowly corporal's rating when it is given in this way.

Incidentally, Sear seemed like a really first rate man. I wish I could have gotten better acquainted with him.

Best regards to all,
Kenneth

November 8, 1944

Corporal Kenneth O. May,
#39117770, Co. A, 87th Inf.,
APO 545,
Camp Swift, Texas.

Dear Corporal:

Well, Well! It is something to be promoted by a lieutenant general. I hope a good deal more comes from the contact.

The only news here today is that a fellow by the name of Roosevelt has been elected President, Never heard of him before, but I hope he will do a good job.

Cordial greetings,



U. S. ARMY

NOV 15, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers,

more news on the advancement front: I am now communications sergeant for the company (A), in charge of maps, sketches, roads, telephones, messengers — and about 20 men to take care of the work. It's an interesting job.

Maneuvers have been cancelled and all men who haven't had a furlough since June are leaving in a day or two. I will be in Berkeley for ten days or so and then return here. Then?

Hope to find time on furlough to cook up something on orientation in the army.

With cordial greetings
Kenneth.

#1

*Scopus
11/17/44
Miss Powell*

Berkeley, California
November 27, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This furlough, which may be the last before another trip overseas, is drawing to a close. As usual I found it very easy to adjust myself to civilian hardships.

I have been thinking about your welcome suggestion that I develop my experiences in orientation into a memorandum. However, when I finally sat down to write I realized that the subject is too big, too much in a state of change and development to be covered in a memorandum. The solution seems to be the Incwa letter, which is also well suited to the fragments of writing time available in the army. The #1 at the head of this letter affirms my intentions--Mars willing. If you find any letters worth reproducing, I would like a copy or two, since I have no carbons.

Probably the most characteristic feature of the American army is its materiel, excellent in quality and overwhelming in quantity. The profusion of products and the proficient services of supply (in turn of course based on an abundance of vehicles, ships and other products), mean that our armies in the field are practically oversupplied and the enemy is pushed back by an avalanche of equipment. Strategically, this has meant a timetable characterized by pauses to build up overwhelming material superiority. Tactically, it has been reflected in an effort to win battles by materiel alone, that is by bombardment and artillery preparation.

For a time, the army was looked upon as little more than an organization to deliver and direct against the enemy the equipment designed to produce victories. I remember a memorandum issued to my unit before our Aleutian landing in which it was explained that the American army was an army of machines operated by men, not an army of men using machines. This ~~xxx~~ one-sided doctrine was reflected also in the failure to appreciate infantry, and an almost complete neglect of subjective factors. For after all, if unthinking machines are to win battles for us, why worry much about morale, political understanding, etc. All that is needed is an efficient army of technicians.

That such an unsound view of war should be prevalent in the American army can be explained only on the assumption of widespread theoretical illiteracy among army cadres. For

the briefest acquaintance with classical military theory, or even a little independent thinking, would convince anyone that subjective factors must always be at the center of war. The purpose of war itself is either annihilation or to force one's will on the enemy. The mere statement of this fact brings out forcefully that whatever means are used, the final end of military action is an effect on the mind of the enemy. He is forced to submit, to surrender, to do our will. In terms of armies this means, as Clausewitz has pointed out, that the aim of a commander is to convince the enemy commander that he is defeated--essentially a subjective result, as is emphasized by the many occasions when bluff has won battles. If we bring this down to the smallest tactical engagement, we find the individual soldier carrying out his mission or not depending on how enemy action affects him both physically and mentally, and how his and his fellow's actions affect individual enemy soldiers.

Of course, when a soldier or a unit becomes a casualty, the subjective ^{factor} ceases to be effective, just as the will to fight of a commander of an annihilated army is of no importance. But failure and defeat occur far more often in war than do death and annihilation. And even where the outcome is death rather than defeat, it is most often subjective factors which are determinative. Regardless of new weapons and methods, the purpose of all means of warfare is to so affect the enemy's ~~wizardlike~~ mind that he submits or is annihilated-- or in tactical terms, that he is killed, retreats or surrenders. From this it follows, that the infantry (the force equipped in whatever way to hold ground and subdue individuals) is the final test of victory, both tactically and strategically. For whatever indirect means (aviation, artillery, propaganda) we use, we cannot know that the enemy is annihilated, we cannot accept his submission or surrender, we cannot occupy his positions without infantry action. And in infantry action we have a direct, individual contest of wills in which the subjective ~~factor~~ factor becomes decisive.

the
Hence it is not surprising that ~~an~~ awakening to the importance of orientation ~~was~~ and infantry occurred at the same time. Not books, or theory, but battle experience was the stimulus. The close-in, small-scale battles in the Pacific must have contained many lessons, but my impression is that at that time weaknesses in training, organization, and choice of equipment stood out. ~~Then~~ ^{to make them} in the Aleutian campaign, morale factors became very evident. Whole ~~batalions~~ batalions were said to have been held up by single snipers; orders to advance were not carried out; men felt pinned down by fire and became casualties because they didn't keep moving; men were surprised and hurt that they had to do tasks which actually meant risking their lives. And then other units or outstanding individuals, faced by ~~not~~ different objective factors advanced or performed their missions with relative ease. Even the high incidence of trench foot and other non-combat casualties on Attu had its subjective side. ~~Even~~ Complete ignorance is not sufficient to

explain all these cases. The fact is that carelessness, discouragement, not caring, etc., are required before such an ailment assumes such proportions. In the British Army trench-foot and frost-bite (the results are similar) are court martial offenses because improper care is assumed. In winter maneuvers, I have seen the frost-bite cases occur invariably among the men in exact proportion to their subjective condition. ✓

Of course, the above comments are my own. I have never seen anything printed along these lines. But those in authority must have taken note. ~~THEN~~ Out of battle reports must have piled up plenty of evidence to show that in the end our army, like any other, was dependant on men (regardless of how much machinery they had to use); and being dependant on men, it was dependant on their will to fight, their will to win, their understanding. And it must have been clear also that the well-known common sense, resourcefulness and independence of the American soldier was not enough even when combined with first-rate military training. Special and constant psychological preparation for battle was needed, not only by more realistic military exercises but by ~~thoroughness~~ informing and politically orienting the soldier so that he fully appreciated his own role.

Many other factors must have contributed to the genesis of the orientation program: In spite of the bad showing which commissars were supposed to have made in the Finnish war, the political education program of the Red Army was obviously a factor in the remarkable fighting achievements of Red Army men. The partisan activities in all occupied territories showed how understanding and enthusiasm, almost without a material base, could create efficient fighting forces. Col. Carlson's Marine Raiders gave a demonstration of what could be accomplished by a well-trained and equipped military ~~XXXXX~~ unit ~~XXXXX~~ whose subjective strength was raised to the highest pitch by means of selection, education and proper methods of living and working together. Then there were the orientation programs undertaken in the Australian and British armies.

At the same time, there occurred spectacular demonstrations of the inability of mechanical means to win victories alone. At Cassino, when bombers and artillery had done their work, the infantry went in and got thrown back out! In spite of our material advantage, in spite of the pounding they had suffered, the German infantry was not conquered that day. And this experience was repeated. The fact that the morale of the Nazi infantry was based on the grossest mis-education and the wildest delusions, only emphasized our failure. The lesson was driven home that we have not only to outproduce the enemy in tanks, planes and guns. But we have to put into the field a man who not only knows how to fight, but who has the will, the desire to kill Nazis, to win battles. And this can only

by a man who understands more about this world than most Americans have ever understood.

Of course I do not know that this is what went on in the minds of our military leaders. But it is certain that they became convinced that battle efficiency required greater understanding by every soldier of the character of the war, our own nation, its allies, the enemy, and of the ideological and political issues at stake. About a year ago, a friend of mine, just inducted into the army, wrote me that evidently our general staff was trying to fight a 20th. century war with a nineteenth century conception of morale. At this time, a thoroughly modern morale program must have been in preparation, and already some excellent activities had become well established.

my next

In ~~ZKZKZK~~ letters I'll tell you of some of the first steps toward orientation, as I observed them. Perhaps I'll be able to avoid the rambling style which arises from the fact that I am free-thinking the subject as I write.

With cordial greetings,

Kenneth

(Sgt. Kenneth May)

PS: If this reaches you in time, please give my respects and cordial regards to the members of the board of trustees.

SO WE'RE TOLD

By Hal Johnson

ELEVATED BY GENERAL

When we first knew him he was the exceptionally bright boy of a University of California professor. Then a few years he was a math instructor on the campus and his radical views put him out of step with the community.

The war came and Kenneth L. May seemingly set aside all "isms" except Americanism. Twice he volunteered for military service but was not accepted and he knew why. Next he wrote to Army authorities that he was physically and mentally fit for military service and he could see no reason why he should be barred from donning a military uniform because he had been active as a Communist.

His application was finally accepted. Being an expert skier, he was assigned to a mountain division for intense training and was sent to Attu where he served with distinction as a private first class. Later his outfit moved back to the "States."

Pfc. May was a Phi Beta Kappa at the University of California. He did political and economic research in Europe and mastered several languages. Naturally he was eager to become an Army officer. Three times he took examinations for Officer Training School. Undoubtedly he passed these examinations with high marks, but the Red menace in reverse apparently followed him.

Disappointed, of course, he resolved to serve his country as the best private first class in his outfit. No one heard him complain.

A few weeks ago the Army service newspaper, "Blizzard," published by and for men of the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Swift, Tex., had a news story on Pfc. "Kenny" May. You might like to read it. Here it is:

"When Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, commander of the Army Ground Forces, entered the day room of Co. A, 87th Infantry, on an inspection tour a week ago Tuesday, the company's orientation man was a PFC. When the General left 15 or 20 minutes later May was on the way to being a sergeant. The promotion actually came through within three hours. The special order says the rating was given on recommendation of Lieutenant General Lear."

May had been working on the company's orientation display of maps, charts and news clippings, which he posts daily when the General and a number of other high ranking officers came in. The general looked around, observed, "This is the most understanding job we've seen yet."

"A brigadier gently pushed May out of the background in which he had taken shelter and Gen. Lear began asking questions, one of which was 'Where did you get that map?'"

"When May replied, 'Out of the orientation kit, sir,' the general seemed surprised, remarked, 'Missed it myself.'

"The general seemed surprised and pleased, too, that the news clippings were out of that day's papers. In the chat that followed the general asked May when he thought we'd land in the Philippines. After some discussion they

reached an agreement on strategy and the general departed, highly pleased.

May taught mathematics at the University of California for three years. He was tutored by political and economic research in Europe under the sponsorship of a foundation. Besides English, he speaks French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Kenny May has been in Berkeley on a furlough from Texas. He is now on his way back to Camp Swift. It may have been his last visit to Berkeley before going to the European theater for hand-to-hand encounters with Nazi Alpine troops. And that's rigid and frigid fighting, which takes courage.

But then it also took courage for a young college professor to sacrifice his campus career for his political views even if you and we found ourselves, sometimes bitterly denouncing him for his local radical leadership.



87th Infantry Regiment
Dec 14, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Marie Deland's report is interesting. She has a forthright style which is arresting and particularly appealing to me. When her book appears, I will be most anxious to read it.

It is no secret that we are likely to move somewhere some time soon. I conclude that we will move either farther away from N.Y. or nearer. [The chances are certainly small that we will do neither]. If the latter is the case, I hope I'll be able to see you somehow, if we get within striking distance.

In spare moments I've been working on an interesting problem suggested by Professor Lowell Field of U.T. He was working on the subjects of

We met when I presided at a forum
he addressed, and he asked my
advice on the problem.

the electoral college, ~~and~~ PR, ~~and~~ and
other election methods and he
wanted to find the mathematical
probability of an "unfair" result.* In
a simpler form, the problem is:

In a certain number of electoral
districts what is the probability that
a party may win a majority of
the votes while failing to carry a
majority of the districts? Prof.
Fields was only able to get the
results ~~answers~~ for cases amenable
to counting. There are few such
cases since for only three
districts and 3 voters in each
there are 64 possible outcomes.
For ~~three~~ ^{nine} voters in each of the districts,
there are 10,000,000,000 an almost
budgetary figure! I have
worked out a method which will
ultimately give a complete ^{and calculable} solution.
It's clear already that the chance
runs better than 1 in 8⁹ and
increases with more districts
and more voters. The formulas
are interesting.

Cordial greetings,
Kenneth

December 16, 1944

Sgt. Kenneth O. May, 39117770,
Co. A, 87th Mt. Inf.,
APO 346,
Camp Swift, Texas.

Dear Kenneth:

I enjoyed your letter of December 8th. Come again!

The annual meeting of the members and trustees of the Institute took place on the second, but I was not present as I found it necessary to be in Chicago at that time. I was told that there was a good discussion of Institute affairs and that it was agreed to hold another meeting two or three months hence to continue the discussion.

Moe is chairman of a committee set up by the Office of Scientific Research and Development to report on ways and means of finding youth with promising talent in the scientific field and giving them opportunities. I am a member of the committee. The assignment is a bit vague, but we hope to do something that will prove useful. It looks to the post-war period.

The season's greetings and good luck.

Sincerely,

Dear Kenneth:

I'm not sure whether you wish copies of your last letter. Only a few copies were made for distribution and there are none left now but if you should like to have copies I can have more made. Best wishes for the holidays.

Excerpt from Letter from Victor S. Clark

Dec. 22. (194~~4~~)

"The two letters from May (#1 and #2) are exceptional - especially #1. I have showed #1 to possibly ten men at the club, beginning with Putnam, and without exception they have exhibited marked interest. Now it is in the hands of Mahlon Perkins, of the State Department, who wants to show it to somebody in the psychology division of the army, or whatever it is, because of certain suggestive points in it. Perkins has an unusually bright son, I think a captain, and is interested through him in problems of morale."

Enclosure: clipping Dec 22, 44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

It seems that I shall celebrate this Christmas, "somewhere on the East Coast". It seems that I will not have an opportunity to see you, tho anything can happen in the army.

The enclosed clipping may interest you. Where the reporter got his mis-information I can't say, but his intentions seem surprisingly good.

Holiday greetings to
all
Kenneth.

(see clipping of Dec. 14, 1944.)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

*File
May*

WVB/rms/LE 944



WAR DEPARTMENT
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

22 December 1944

Mr. Mahlon F. Perkins
Department of State
Walker-Johnson Building
Room 715
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Thank you very much for the privilege of reading this excellent letter from Sergeant Kenneth May. I have taken the privilege of drawing off a copy before returning the original. Would you be so kind as to inquire whether there is any reason why I might not make it available to an officer in the Army's orientation program?

Sincerely yours,

WALTER V. BINGHAM
Chief Psychologist
Classification and Replacement Branch

Incl.

*WVB
12/20/44
MFP*

December 23, 1944

Sgt. Kenneth May, 39117770,
Co. A, 87 Mt. Inf.,
APO345,
Camp Swift, Texas.

Dear Kenneth:

Maybe the insignia of your regiment, as it appears on the letter paper used for your letter of the 14th, should be revised. The horseshoe has the opening down. There is a tradition that such a position permits the luck to run out.

While I was visiting an estate, once owned by the Tsar, facing the Black Sea, the guide went out of his way to show John Crane and me a horseshoe nailed that way to a stable door. The guide assured us that a few years before his demise the Tsar had picked up the horseshoe and had nailed it in place!

However, perhaps the real motto of your regiment is, "To hell with tradition!"

While you are working on probabilities, you might try this one. What are the probabilities that Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin and Chiang Kai-shek will be considered great heroes ten years from now?

Certainly hope that you will find it possible to visit with us here.

Cordial greetings,

#3

Not for publication.

Dec 25, '44

Dear Mr. Rogers:

They deliver mail on Christmas in the army and your letter was brought by Santa this morning.

The committee on locating and developing young scientific talent sounds as if it could be far more useful to America than many more spectacular projects.

Do you remember Hubert N. Young of the Food Research Institute at Stanford? He writes me from India where he is a major in G-2 asking me to tell him of my work in orientation and suggesting that Bruno Lasker of I.P.R. would

like to hear about it also.

Perhaps you could include them among those to whom you pass on my wanderings on the subject.

His address is:

Major Hobart N. Young

0-229265

Hq. USF - I.B.T. APO885

% PM - NY NY.

Because of our unexpectedly early departure I didn't see Prof Zimmerman but have written asking him for Mr. Shooshan's address.

And now to "come again": ~~will~~

The present "Information and Education" program is a far cry from ~~the~~ ~~present~~

the orientation lectures of two years ago. The new name is more appropriate than the old terms "morale" and "orientation" which are too general for a program which is concerned only with the ideological, educational, and informational factors in morale, and which is designed to orient the soldier only in regard to ~~war~~ ~~issues~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~current~~ world and national affairs. Every command and staff function is related to morale, and orientation of the soldier should be part of every act of leadership.

In John Dollard's

interesting "Fear in Battle" [now published by the Infantry Journal in a special edition for the armed forces] the following factors were listed as ~~un~~favorable in order of importance according to ^{American} veterans of the Spanish Civil War:

- * (1) Belief in war aims
- (2) Good leadership
- (3) Training
- (4) Material
- * (5) Information of military situation
- (6) Esprit de corps
- (7) Understanding fear
- * (8) Hatred of the enemy
- (9) Distractions.

The following were listed

as unfavorable -- also in order of importance:

(1) Defeats

* (2) Ignorance of news

(3) Poor food and clothing

(4) Poor leadership

(5) Idleness

(6) Fatigue

(7) Enemy material superiority

* (8) Lack of home support

I have put an asterisk by those factors which are the special field of I & E and which were neglected prior to its inception. The list brings out sharply the complex character of morale and the special, important position occupied by I & E. "Idleness" and "Distractions" are

the concern of the Athletics and Recreation program, turn brother to I & E. I shall refer to this list again later.

So the I & E program as now set-up is concerned with (1) Informing the men on current events and government policy - especially on the military situation and home front support (2) Orienting the men ideologically on the war and post war - especially on our aims and our allies, and the character of the enemy. (3) Raising the general educational level of the army thru off-duty education.

The first two are carried on by means of

on I&E activities come from Washington.

However, the execution of the program is inevitably uneven, depending on the interest of different C.O.'s. Many still regard it as a fill. Only a few days ago a captain [not in my regiment] congratulated me on being assigned to communications work since "orientation is just some general's whim.... anybody can handle it.... no advancement..." This attitude naturally results in careless assignment of personnel, failure to allot proper time, and

other neglect. Some of my friends scattered about the army have seen few signs of the program while others ~~have had~~ have had ^{favorable} experiences more like mine.

However, there is pressure for I & E from the top and from the men ~~at~~ in the ~~lower~~ ranks, and this ~~unevenness~~ unevenness and non-compliance will probably be reduced to that existing in every other activity.

In my next I'll tell you of the program in my own company.

Cordially

Kenneth

Note for Miss Powell enclosed.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

#3

Dec. 25, 1944

Dear Mr. Rogers:

They deliver mail on Christmas in the army and your letter was brought by Santa this morning.

The committee on locating and developing young scientific talent sounds as if it could be far more useful to America than many more spectacular projects.

Do you remember Hobart N. Young of the Food Research Institute at Stanford? He writes me from India where he is a major in G-2 asking me to tell him of my work in orientation and suggesting that Bruno Lasker of I.P.R. would like to hear about it also. Perhaps you could include them among those to whom you pass on my wanderings on the subject. His address is: Major Hobart N. Young, O-229265, Hq. U.S.F. - I.B.T., APO 885, c/o Postmaster, New York, N. Y.

Because of our unexpectedly early departure I didn't see Prof. Zimmerman but have written asking him for Mr. Shoosham's address.

And now to "come again":

The present "Information and Education" program is a far cry from the orientation lectures of two years ago. The new name is more appropriate than the old terms "morale" and "orientation" which are too general for a program which is concerned only with the ideological, educational, and informational factors in morale, and which is designed to orient the soldier only in regard to current world and national affairs. Every command and staff function is related to morale, and orientation of the soldier should be part of every act of leadership.

In John Dollard's interesting "Fear in Battle" (now published by the Infantry Journal in a special edition for the armed forces) the following factors were listed as favorable - in order of importance, according to American veterans of the Spanish Civil War:

- *(1) Belief in war aims
- (2) Good leadership
- (3) Training
- (4) Materiel
- *(5) Information of military situation
- (6) Esprit de corps
- (7) Understanding fear
- *(8) Hatred of the enemy
- (9) Distractions

The following were listed as unfavorable - also in order of importance:

- (1) Defeats
- *(2) Ignorance of news

- (3) Poor food and clothing
- (4) Poor leadership
- (5) Idleness
- (6) Fatigue
- (7) Enemy material superiority
- * (8) Lack of home support

I have put an asterisk by those factors which are the special field of I & E and which were neglected prior to its inception. The list brings out sharply the complex character of morale and the special, important position occupied by I & E. "Idleness" and "Distractions" are the concern of the Athletics and Recreation program, twin brother to I & E. I shall refer to this list again later.

So the I & E program as now set up is concerned with: (1) Informing the men on current events and government policy - especially on the military situation and home front support; (2) orienting the men ideologically on the war and post-war - especially on our aims, our allies, and the character of the enemy; (3) raising the general educational level of the army through off-duty education.

The first two are carried on by means of discussions, lectures, films, map and poster displays, reading material, etc. The last, through correspondence courses (United States Armed Forces Institute) and classes organized in the unit or on the post. To carry on this program, I & E officers and NCO's are authorized for all units and a school exists to train this personnel. I have been told that enlisted men are flown back from the fronts to attend this school in preparation for work in their units. A weekly discussion guide and much other printed material is issued. Directives on I & E activities come from Washington.

However, the execution of the program is inevitably uneven, depending on the interest of different C.O.'s. Many still regard it as a frill. Only a few days ago a captain (not in my regiment) congratulated me on being assigned to communications work since "orientation is just some general's whim.....anybody can handle it.....no advancement....." This attitude naturally results in careless assignment of personnel, failure to allot proper time, and other neglects. Some of my friends scattered about the army have seen few signs of the program while others have had favorable experiences more like mine. However, there is pressure for I & E from the top and from the men in the ranks, and this unevenness and non-compliance will probably be reduced to that existing in every other activity.

In my next I'll tell you of the program in my own company.

Cordially,

Kenneth May

Dec 26 (1944)

Dear Helen -

Yes, I would like a copy or two of my last letter - #2 of December 8. I think it was. Could you make it S.O.P. [G.I. for "standard operating procedure"] to send me a copy of anything of mine you reproduce? With no copies of what I write, I'm going to get impossibly repetitious.

I suggested to WSR that Bruno Losker of I.P.R. and Major Hobart N. Young O-229 265 Hq, USF - IBS
APO 885, PM NY NY
would be interested in these

letters. If you recopy #2 will you send them ^{each} a copy also?

Did a #1 ever arrive?

Best wishes to you for the New Year.

Kenneth

*file
May*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF POLITICAL STUDIES

Dec. 27, 1944.

Dear Dr. Clark:

I return herewith the letter from Kenneth May and also send you Col. Bingham's letter to me, which I have answered conformably to your telephone conversation of last night.

It is evident that Col. Bingham was more than superficially pleased with the content of the letter.

Sincerely yours,



Mahlon F. Perkins

December 30, 1944

Sgt. Kenneth May, 39117770,
Co. A, 87th Mt. Inf.,
APO 345,
c/o Postmaster,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Kenneth:

I am enclosing herewith copies of your Nos. 1, 2 and 3 and will make it S.O.P., as you suggest, to send you copies of future letters. Copies of No. 1 had previously been sent to you but probably arrived at Camp Swift after your departure. Copies will go out to Bruno Lasker and Major Hobart N. Young as soon as No. 3 is mimeographed and I will also send you some extra copies.

These letters are extremely interesting and you are evidently making exceptionally good use of your opportunities.

If it is at all possible I wonder whether you would mind sending in your letters on standard size letter paper - 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11" or at least something approaching it. I am now getting files ready for binding and it is always a help and makes a better looking job if the size can be more or less uniform. Would also suggest writing only on one side (which you usually do).

It is too bad that you are not coming to New York on the way to your next assignment but I hope this will reach you before you leave the country.

Best of luck and all good wishes,

Sincerely,

H. K. P.

