

Oslo, 22.6.1926  
Storgt.9

F. Divisa  
Ingeieur des Ponts et Chaussées  
52. Rue Baudin, Issy les Moulineaux, près Paris.

Cher Monsieur,

Je vous accuse réception de votre aimable lettre du 5 courant et de votre belle et intéressante étude : "L'indice monétaire.." et je vous en remercie. Je n'ai pas encore eu l'occasion d'étudier au fond votre ouvrage. J'y reviendrai plus tard. Je vais du reste en faire un compte-rendu détaillé dans notre "Statsökonomisk Tidsskrift".

En ce qui concerne la divergence entre nos points de vues, il me semble qu'elle est plus apparente que réelle. Je constate d'abord que nous sommes parfaitement d'accord sur la nécessité d'employer les mathématiques et sur la nécessité d'avoir recours aux faits d'observation.

Il semble que la différence de point de vue est la différence entre ce que l'on pourra appeler la méthode macrocosmique et la méthode microcosmique. Je pense que vous entendez sans de longues explications ce que je veux dire par là. La loi de Guy-Lussac-Mariotte est par exemple une loi macrocosmique tandis que la théorie cinétique des gaz est une théorie microcosmique. Y a-t-il une antagonie entre les deux méthodes? Ne sont-elles pas plus tôt complémentaires? Souvent la découverte d'une loi macrocosmique ne constitue qu'un nouveau problème pour la théorie microcosmique. Il est vrai qu'il y a certains phénomènes macrocosmiques qui sont autre chose qu'un problème posé à la méthode microcosmique, des faits qui ne sauront trouver leur explication par des phénomènes microcosmiques, mais qui constituent tout au contraire des conditions imposées du dehors aux phénomènes

microcosmiques. Tels par exemple la forme du récipient contenant une masse gazeuse, ou la quantité de monnaie dans la circulation, et d'autres phénomènes se rapportant à la valeur de la monnaie.

Je suis donc parfaitement d'accord avec vous sur ce point que la théorie des choix (pris dans le sens restreint de ce terme, comme vous le faites) ne peut pas à elle seule et sans appui établir une théorie générale des prix absolus. Elle a besoin de s'appuyer sur certaines conditions et liaisons macrocosmiques pour ainsi dire imposées du dehors à ce petit monde d'atomes économiques qui fait l'objet de la théorie des choix (dans le sens restreint). Il ne semble pas que ce fait ait échappé à Pareto. Mais peut-être lui peut-on reprocher de ne pas avoir insisté suffisamment sur la nécessité d'étudier plus au fond la relation entre la théorie des choix et les théories macrocosmiques.

D'autre part il ne faut pas oublier que si l'on fournit à la théorie des choix des conditions macrocosmiques dont elle a besoin, elle conduit à une théorie des prix parfaitement générale et sans lacune, ce que l'on reconnaît en comparant le nombre d'inconnus et le nombre d'équations. En particulier la remarque relative aux biens indirects (p.14 de mon étude) ne révèle pas de cercle vicieux caché dans la théorie des choix. Il est vrai que l'on ne peut pas définir l'utilité en question que comme une utilité relative à un champ déterminé, le champ étant défini par un certain vecteur-prix. Mais cela n'implique aucunement que pour résoudre les équations d'équilibre on doit supposer le vecteur-prix en question donné au préalable. Le nombre d'équations et d'inconnus est toujours le même que dans le cas où tous les biens sont des biens directs. La seule différence est que dans le cas général, il faut considérer les utilités comme fonctions non seulement des quantités possédées c'est à dire du vecteur de position

... aussi comme fonctions du vecteur-prix, et l'on voit (comme j'ai remarqué p.14) qu'il est en principe possible de déterminer "par expérience" la forme de cette fonction par un procédé parfaitement analogue à celui employé dans le cas où tous les biens sont des biens directes. Il faut pourtant avouer que dans l'oeuvre de Pareto cette question n'a pas reçu toute l'attention qu'elle mérite.

J'ai dit plus haut qu'il n'existe pas d'antagonie réelle entre les méthodes microcosmiques et les méthodes macrocosmiques. Je vais encore plus loin. Il me semble que la tendance de soumettre les lois abstraites de l'économie pure à une vérification expérimentale et numérique à l'aide des statistiques, a pour effet de réaliser une véritable fusion entre les deux méthodes. Au fur que cette tendance se développe la seule différence qui restera, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ sera une différence de choix entre le système de paramètres par laquelle on fera la description des phénomènes économiques, les paramètres de la méthode microcosmique étant pour ainsi dire plus petit que les paramètres de la méthode macrocosmique.

Vous comprenez donc qu'il est loin de moi d'estimer les études macrocosmiques comme moins importantes que les études microcosmiques. Par mon remarque p. 23 j'ai seulement voulu exprimer la vue que au fur que notre science se développe/sera appelé à jouer le rôle de principe supérieure de coordination des recherches, non comme une méthode plus "utile" que la méthode microcosmique, s'il est permis de comparer l'utilité de différentes méthodes scientifiques.

J'espère Monsieur que ces quelques lignes ont précisé mon point de vue. Je crois qu'il est en réalité très voisin du vôtre.

Agréer Monsieur l'assurance de ma considération  
très distinguée.

Ragnar Frisch.



Cher Monsieur,

Je vous remercie bien vivement de votre lettre du 1. septembre, que j'ai reçue à l'instant.

Vous faites mention de M. Fisher et de votre lettre à laquelle il n'a pas répondu. J'en ai fait la même expérience. Je lui ai adressé quelques extraits et une lettre où j'annonçais mon arrivée à Yale au mois d'octobre comme "fellow" de la fondation Laura Spelman Rockefeller. J'ai exprimé l'espoir d'avoir des avis relatifs à l'étude d'économie politique aux Etats-unis. Pourtant je n'ai rien entendu. Cela m'étonne d'autant plus que j'ai fait de la correspondance avec bon nombre des économistes et statisticiens américains et ils ont tous répondu sans délai.

Le "Minerva" est un annuaire qui paraît en Allemagne et qui donne les noms etc. de tous les professeurs etc. de toutes les institutions scientifique du monde entier. C'est une collection qui existe déjà depuis des années. Elle est aussi connue sous le nom de "Minerva-Jahrbuch der Gelehrten Welt". On la trouve certainement à la Bibliothèque Nationale.

[ - Je saisie avec enthousiasme ~~vo~~<sup>re</sup> idée d'une liste ou autre moyen de communication entre les économistes mathématiciens du monde entier. J'ai eu moi même l'idée de tacher de réaliser une association avec un périodique consacré à ces questions. Il est vrai que les périodiques ordinaires tels que la Revue d'économie politique ou l'Economic Journal, etc. <sup>acceptent</sup> ~~reçoivent~~ occasionnellement des mémoires mathématiques, mais toujours est-il que l'auteur d'un tel mémoire se trouve ~~toujours~~ sous la



l'obligation de restreindre autant que possible l'emploi de symboles mathématique et le raisonnement par démonstration mathématique. Je connais déjà pas mal d'économistes mathématiciens dans ~~XXXXXX~~ différents pays, et j'ai pensé d'écrire un jour ou l'autre une lettre à chacun d'eux pour avoir leurs opinion sur la possibilité d'une "Association internationale d'économie pure" et sur la possibilité d'un périodique, ( ~~je~~ ~~est~~ ~~ce~~ ~~que~~ ~~vous~~ ~~dites~~ ~~d'~~ ~~un~~ ~~"Econometrica"~~? la sœur du "Biometrika"). ~~XXXXXX~~ Maintenant je serai heureux d'avoir votre opinion d'abord. Si vous pensez que cela vaut la peine on pourra peut-être commencer par former un cercle ~~plus~~ restreint qui s'adressera plus tard ~~XXXX~~ au public. Dans les années à venir ~~XXX~~ j'aurai probablement l'occasion de voyager pas mal en Amérique et en Europe, alors j'aurai l'occasion de faire la connaissance des économistes qui pourront s'intéresser au projet, et j'aurai l'occasion de ~~XXXX~~ faire un peu de propagande. ~~Peut-être~~ pourra-t-on obtenir l'appui d'un des grandes fondations américaines pour la publication du périodique.

Voici une liste de quelques personnes que je connais par correspondance comme étant très intéressées au sujet d'économie pure.

*Pense  
Shaw au  
futurisme  
par rapport  
à l'atom*

- M. Jaime Algarra, Professeur d'éc.pol. Université. Barcelone.
- M. L. von Bortkiewicz. Professeur de Stat. Univ. Berlin.
- M. E. Bouvier. Prof. de Sc. fin. Univ. Lyon.
- M. K. Goldziher. Prof. Techn. Hochschule. Budapest.
- M. K. G. Hagström. Actuaire. ~~"Praktiken"~~ Stockholm.
- M. Charles Jordan. Docteur ès Sc. ~~Bereanyi ut. 7.~~ Budapest
- M. Edv. Mackeprang Dr. Polit. ~~Overg. e. v. 10.~~ Copenhague.
- M. W. M. Persons. Prof. de Stat. Harvard University. Cambridge. Mass. U.S.A.

\* E. Slutsky ~~Maschkowa ul. 17/15~~ Moskau. (A publié de mémoires très importants sur l'éc.math. et stat.math. Voir en particulier dernier numero de Metron, et un memoire qui va paraître dans la collection des travaux des scientifiques russe à l'étranger, je n'est pas le titre exact entre les mains. Il est très intéressé à notre sujet.)

Prof. d'éc. polit.

\* A.A. Young / Harvard University. Cambridge. Mass. U.S.A.

\* P. Rédiadis / ~~Chalcocondyli~~ S. Athènes.



*Joseph Brousse*

*Invendus*  
Voici quelques personnes avec lesquelles j'ai échangé des extraits et qui sont probablement intéressées au sujet:

\* Anderson Prof. Ecole Supérieure de Commerce. Varna. Bulgarie.

M. Ansiaux. Prof. d'éc. pol. Univ. Bruxelles.

M. Aggers Prof. d'éc. pol. Columbia Univ. N.Y. city.

M. Bowley Prof. d'éc. pol. London School of Economics.

M. L. Borgatta. Univ. Pise.

M. F. Y. Edgeworth. Prof. emer. Royal Soc. Society. London.

M. Gini Univ. Padova. Italie.

M. Gobbi. Prof. d'éc. pol. ~~MI~~ Università Commerciale. Milano.

\* M. Graziani. Prof. d'éc. pol. Univ. Napoli. Italie.

M. Keynes Prof. d'éc. pol. 46. Gordon Square London WC1.

M. Loria Univ. Torino. Italie.

M. Huber Dir. de la Stat. gén. de la France. Paris.

M. Pégou Prof. d'éc. pol. Univ. Cambridge. England.

\* M. Ricci Univ. Roma.

\* M. Totomianz Prof. d'éc. pol. Russkij Juridiceskij Fakultet. Prag.

\* M. del Vecchio R. Univ. Commerciale Trieste.

Il y en a aussi d'autres mais je n'est pas la liste complète entre les mains.

J'espère comme vous que notre correspondance se prolongera et j'estime comme vous qu'il ne sera pas mauvais que nous fassions plus ample connaissance. Pour cette raison je vous demande de trouver ci-inclu une copie d'une lettre qui vous renseignera sur mes études etc. Veuillez agréer cher M

Paris

Oslo, Storgt. 9

1.11.1926

Cher Monsieur,

Je vous remercie ~~pour~~ votre lettre du 22. septembre. J'ai été extrêmement heureux d'apprendre votre intérêt pour une association internationale d'économie pure, et je vous remercie du soin que vous avez eu de développer vos idées à ce sujet. J'ai trouvé vos remarques toutes à fait judicieuses.

Mon départ pour l'Amérique a été ajourné de quelques mois. ~~Je ne partirai que vers la fin du mois de novembre.~~ J'en ai profité pour écrire aux personnes suivantes:

~~M. le professeur Bortkiewicz, Université de Berlin.~~  
~~M. le professeur A.L. Bowley, London School of Economics~~  
~~M. Charles Jordan, Agrégé à l'Université de Budapest,~~  
~~M. Eugen Slutsky, Maschkowa ul. 15/17 Moscou.~~

pour avoir leurs opinions sur l'utilité et la possibilité de réaliser d'abord un cercle restreint ~~comme vous le proposez~~, et plus tard peut-être une association formelle, ~~éventuellement avec un périodique consacré aux problèmes "économétriques".~~

J'ai trouvé que je n'ai pas pu expliquer la chose d'une meilleure façon qu'en copiant certains passages de votre dernière lettre, où vous avez développé des idées si claires et si précisées sur l'utilité d'une telle association. C'est peut-être là une petite indiscretion dont je me suis rendu coupable, mais je crois que <sup>je</sup> si/ vous ~~avai~~ demandé au préalable la permission de citer votre lettre, vous me l'auriez donnée sans hésitation. Ci-joint vous trouverez une copie des passages que j'ai cités, ainsi qu'une copie de ~~la~~ lettre à M. Bowley.

J'espère cher Monsieur que vous allez toujours bien, et je vous demande de me croire toujours votre bien sincèrement dévoué.

Rasmann

risch



61B-

The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial  
61 Broadway, New York city

Le 22 mai 1927

M.le professeur F.Divisia,

Cher Monsieur,

Pendant les derniers mois j'ai ete tres occupe par la redaction d'un memoire sur l'analyse des series statistiques temporelles. Par consequence je n'ai pas eu beaucoup de temps de travailler pour la realisation de notre periodique "Oekonometrika". Tout ce que j'ai pu faire c'est de rediger un projet d'un memorandum dont vous trouverez ci joint une copie. Je vous serais tres reconnaissant de bien vouloir me faire savoir votre opinion a ce sujet. J'ai fait la connaissance d'un economiste mathematisien german Dr. Kuhne. Il a entre autre ecrit un article dans le "Jahrbuch fur Nationalok." sur l'ecole mathematique. Il a ete tres interesse pour l'"Oekonometrika". Peutetre meme trop enthousiaste.

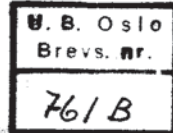
Je ne sais pas encore si mon article sur les series statistiques temporelles sera imprime ici ou en Europe. Entre temps je vous ai envoye une copie dactylographie.

J'espere Monsieur que vous allez toujours bien.

Croyez moi toujours votre bien sicerement devoue



Je sais que M.le professeur Henry L.Moore est en Paris pour le moment comme "visiting professor". Il est tres interesse a tout ce qui a rapport a l'economie mathematique. Pour la realisation de notre plan je crois qu'il sera d'une certaine importance s'il est informe par vous. Vous pouvez expliquer tous les details mieux que je peut le faire dans une lettre. Il aura peut etre quelque interet a voir aussi mon etude sur les series temporelles.



Division

p. t. Washington D. C.  
de 6. janvier 1928

Cher Monsieur,

Je vous remercie beaucoup de vos  
souhaits pour la nouvelle année.

J'étais malheureux d'apprendre

que votre santé laisse à désirer.

Je souhaite de tout mon cœur que vous soyez  
rapidement et complètement rétabli. - C'est peut-être là,  
~~je ne sais pas~~ <sup>le</sup> meilleur

que je puisse

~~vous~~ souhaits pour la nouvelle

année. que votre santé se rétablisse

complètement.

Mes impressions de ce grand pays  
de « efficacité », « progrès », « expansion » etc.  
sont de toutes sortes. ~~De point de vue~~  
~~économiquement~~ Elles sont peut-être

plus intéressants, du point de vue ~~quantitatif~~,  
~~et~~ au point de vue ~~quantitatif~~ ~~de~~ ~~la~~ ~~science~~  
scientifique. ~~En~~ Pendant ces  
derniers jours il a été ici à Washington  
une <sup>joint</sup> Annual "Convention" ~~off~~ d'un grand  
nombre de sociétés américaines pour les sciences  
sociales: American Economic Ass., Am. Stat.  
Ass., Am. Sociological Ass. etc. J'ai eu  
un ~~très~~ intérêt à en prendre part. ~~En~~ <sup>particulier</sup>  
il a été intéressant de revoir un grand  
nombre de personnes que j'ai rencontrées  
pendant mon voyage l'été dernier.

Mes impressions relatives à la création  
de "Econometrica" ne sont pas  
très favorables. <sup>El para peut-être possible de trouver un ~~autre~~  
avis qui ~~soit~~ ~~plus~~ ~~favorable~~, mais ~~je~~ ~~ne~~ ~~peux~~ ~~pas~~  
~~en~~ ~~avoir~~ ~~une~~ ~~opinion~~ ~~si~~ ~~certaine~~</sup>  
actuelle est qu'il vaut mieux ~~attendre~~  
quelques années. Rien ne sera plus  
mauvais que ~~de~~ d'établir un journal  
tel que l'"Econometrica" et  
d'être obligés de le remplir d'articles  
de second ordre.

<sup>Je</sup> <sup>vous</sup> <sup>souhaite</sup> <sup>Chère</sup> <sup>Morison,</sup> <sup>encore</sup> <sup>une</sup>  
fois bonne <sup>soirée</sup> <sup>avec</sup> <sup>mon</sup> <sup>travail</sup> <sup>remerciement</sup>  
<sup>cordialement</sup> <sup>à</sup> <sup>vous</sup>



761B

delivered at Vienna to attend the last session of the  
the day of his death. I should have said that I  
maintain the position of the International Congress of  
Mathematicians.

June 26, 1930.

Your suggestion of a meeting in  
Paris, France, is what I have long  
thought of together with the other  
members of the International  
Congress of Mathematicians, Paris,  
Clamart, Seine.

My dear Professor Birkhoff,  
I am very glad to hear from you  
and to see that you are still  
interested in the question of  
the International Association of  
Mathematical Economists.  
When I received your letter  
from Professor Fisher, Professor  
Roos and myself were just on the point of sending out  
our letter of June 19th which you have probably now re-  
ceived. You understand from this letter that I have given  
a good deal of thought to this question since we discus-  
sed it last time in Paris, and I am very anxious to know  
your opinion about the various points raised in this let-  
ter.

Your suggestion that we should seek a  
rapprochement to the International Congress of Mathe-  
maticians is very interesting. I have, however, some  
objection against it. This might have as its effect  
the isolation of those cultivating mathematical econ-  
omists from the rest of the economic theorists, and I  
think this would be a very unfortunate effect. As a  
matter of fact, what we want is more to penetrate the  
whole body of economic theory with the keenness of  
mathematical thought, and I believe that this is actual-  
ly what is taking place. I have been quite surprised  
in the last few years to see the growing feeling among  
economic theorists of the necessity of a mathematical  
training, and also the growing feeling of the necessity  
of a rapprochement between economic theory and statis-  
tics. I therefore believe that by acting wisely now  
we would be able, so to speak, to swallow the whole  
body of economic theory. Our argument would simply be  
that we respect economic theory as such and we take it  
more or less for granted that this necessarily means  
emphasizing the mathematical and quantitative methods.

U.S. O. 10  
Brev. 11  
578

You will see that our letter of June 17 is formulated along just these lines. This will explain to you why I feel some objection against attaching our association to the International Congress of Mathematicians.

June 28, 1930

Your suggestion is, however, very interesting and we will take it up, and discuss it thoroughly together with the other suggestions which we have to receive in answer to our letter.

You will perhaps be surprised to see that I am now in the United States. The situation is that I have been invited as a Visiting Professor in the Department of Economics at Yale University. I have accepted the invitation very much, and am going to stay at least until February next year. I received your letter to the point of sending me your letter with all hesitations. I have never even had time to read it. I have given a good deal of thought to the question since we discussed it in Paris, and I am very anxious to know your opinion about the various points raised in this letter.

Ragnar Frisch

100 Home Street,  
New Haven, Conn.  
I am very interested in your objection against the isolation of those activities which are strictly economic in character, and I think this would be a very unfortunate effect. I am sure that we want to penetrate the whole body of economic theory with the mathematical method, and I believe that this is actually what is being done. I have been surprised in the last few years to see the growing feeling among economists of the necessity of a mathematical training, and also the growing feeling of the necessity of a rapprochement between economic theory and statistics. I therefore believe that we should be able to speak of a new body of economic theory. Our argument would simply be that we respect economic theory as such and we take it more or less for granted that the necessary means of abstracting the mathematical and quantitative methods.

September 26, 1930.

Professor François Divisia,  
École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées,  
Paris, France.

Dear Colleague:

Thank you very much for your cordial letter of July 23. Thank you also for the elaborate answer which you sent to Fisher's, Roos' and my joint letter. Your answer is one of the most constructive we have received, and I am sure that we will profit very greatly by it. Other answers which have also been particularly constructive are those received from Schumpeter, Amoreso and Colson.

At the present time it is premature to say anything more about what our next move will be. I am busily engaged in studying the answers received, trying to dig out the main ideas contained. When this is done, Professor Fisher, Professor Roos and I will get together and discuss the matter thoroughly. Then you will hear from us again.

With all best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

Ragnar Frisch  
Visiting Professor,  
Yale University.

Home address; 100 Howe Street

RF.W



January 13, 1931.

Professor F. Divisia,  
29 rue Cecille-Dinant,  
Clamart (Seine), France.

My dear Professor Divisia:

Thank you very much for your personal letter of December 18th to me and also for your official letter regarding the formation of the Society. The official letter will, of course, be answered in due time.

At present I only want to tell you personally that the foundation of the Econometric Society in Cleveland was a great success. <sup>so far as I can judge</sup> There were not very many people present, but those who were present were, I think, rather interested. The constitution underwent some modifications, all of which I think were improvements. You will very soon receive the text of the new constitution.

Professor Irving Fisher was unable to attend the meeting. And in his absence the meeting played a trick on him by electing him the president. The following persons were elected for the Council:

Amoroso	Frisch
Bortkiewicz	Hoes
Bowley	Schumpeter
Divisia	E. B. Wilson
Fisher	Zawadzki

I appreciate your agreement in the formulation in the first section of the constitution. Of course, as you probably <sup>say</sup> know, this was a very delicate question, and I somewhat felt myself that the formulation was a good one. This part of the constitution was accepted practically unchanged at the meeting.

With cordial regard,

Faithfully yours,

Ragnar Frisch  
Pro tem: Visiting Professor of Economics,  
Yale University

Home address: 100 Howe Street,  
New Haven, Connecticut,  
U. S. A.

101 ~  
Professor François Divisia

Dear colleague:

Thank you very much for your long thoughtful letter of May 23 in re the Econometric Society.

May I say first of all that I am so glad that you have accepted the Vice-Presidency for Europe. You know of course that Professor Schumpeter is also very interested in the Society. I hope that you, he and I can stick together more or less and discuss the matters of special concern to the European members.

YOU mention the question of requirements for fellowship and the fact that the Constitution as it is now adopted does not specify any definite such requirements. This does not mean that there is in reality made any change in the spirit of the Constitution. I believe that those present at the organization meeting agreed upon the nature of the Society as it was originally conceived and expressed in the conditions for eligibility for fellowship first put up. It is true that there was at the beginning of the meeting some confusion particularly in regard to the interpretation of the term "quantitative", some people seeming to understand by this term simply "statistics". But after a long and very elucidating speech by Schumpeter who emphasized that economic theory must be at the basis of the work which the Society should have in view, this question was cleared up in a way which I think is definitive. I attach particular importance to the fact that after Schumpeter's talk the American members dropped Wesley C. Mitchell as their candidate for Council Membership. The reason why the specified requirements were omitted in the Constitution is simply that it was felt necessary to leave some flexibility for exceptional cases and that the handling of such cases ought to be left to the judgement of the Council and the Fellows. As I see it the first version of the draft of the Constitution could therefore very well serve as a sort of interpretation to the meaning of the Constitution, as you suggest. I shall be anxious to see if Schumpeter agrees with me in this point of view. In any case I think it would be excellent, as you suggest, to make the interpretation of the Constitution the first topic to be discussed at the European meeting which you are planning. I think it would be a good idea if you could as soon ~~xxx~~ as possible enter into contact with the other European Councilmembers, first of all Schumpeter, and, if they think the plan feasible, I would suggest that you work out a list of those that could actually come to the meeting. Personally I shall be in Copenhagen some time in September, and I think I could then see my way out to proceed to Lausanne if that place was decided upon. I heard from somebody that Schumpeter would also be in Copenhagen in September. In that event we could make the trip together. I consider it of great importance that Schumpeter be present. I have no objection to offering M. Bonninsegni the Presidency of this first meeting. If it could be possible to arrange it already this fall, I should be very happy. In that event the true international character of the Society would be clearly indicated. As you know there is going to be one or may be two American meetings of the Society this fall.

I shall be very anxious to hear from you about the possibilities of the meeting and the results of your correspondence.

With best personal regards, sincerely yours

Ragnar Frisch

Copy of this letter sent Schumpeter



Blankett nr. 77.

Under nr. 405 er der dags dato innlevert et rekommandert brev til

*Francois Divisva*

Porto kr. 880

*O. Klein*  
Postfunksjonærens navn



Februar 1920.



July 25, 1931.

Professor François Divisia,  
29 rue Cécille Minant,  
Clamart, (près Paris), France.

My dear Professor Divisia:

Thank you for your letter of July 8. I am glad that you are taking so much interest in the Econometric Society and have taken the pains to make so many valuable suggestions.

I think your point is well taken in objecting to the mechanical method I had suggested for electing Charter Members whereby a man would be considered elected if he received one vote of approval and no vote of disapproval. I am therefore going to propose another method.

It seems to me quite feasible to elect a list of Charter Members without committing ourselves to electing all of these Charter Members as Fellows. In fact, I think it would probably be a decided mistake to try to make the two lists co-terminus. To my mind, the hierarchy should be in concentric circles, the smallest being the Council, next the Fellows, next the Charter Members and last, the general Members, although these groups will not be created in that order, inasmuch as the Charter Members will be chosen before the Fellows. I think that the Charter Membership should close with the meeting in this country on January 1, 1932, and that every effort should be made to make this Charter Membership consist of those who would be approved by a substantial number of the economists of the world and not omit anyone who would be regarded by a substantial number of the economists of the world as deserving membership as much as or more than the average (or let us say, median) of those included.

I think that any member actually elected by the Council between now and January 1 will be ipso facto a Charter Member and that we should not attempt to elect

any ordinary Members until after the Charter Membership list has been completed. You will recall the proposed distinction between Members and Charter Members which I discussed in detail in my letter to you of June 17.

I am glad to know that you are thinking of meeting with Frisch and Schumpeter. This seems to me a very good idea.

We will be delighted to have you send us a paper on "Flux et Stock" to be read by title at one of the New Orleans meetings on January 1.

Enclosed are four lists summarizing the votes of the Council on the candidates for Charter Membership, as follows:

- (1) Candidates receiving at least two votes of approval and no vote of disapproval,
- (2) Candidates receiving but one vote of approval and no vote of disapproval,
- (3) Candidates receiving one or more votes of approval and one or more votes of disapproval,
- (4) Candidates receiving no specific votes of approval or disapproval.

Unless there is objection sent in reply to this letter and received within a reasonable time, I shall assume that those on list (1) are elected Charter Members.

I have purposely omitted the names of the Council members who have voted against a man because it is very important that everyone should feel perfectly free to do this and not to refrain for fear his vote of disapproval will be known of by the candidate. Of course certain members of the Council sent in a general vote of approval, not specifically voting in favor of any of the individual names, and in view of our present policy of making the Charter Membership list carefully restricted, these general votes are not being counted in these summarizing lists.

In case there has been but one definite vote of approval cast for a candidate, I am asking the person favoring him to give his reason so that I can transmit this to the other members of the Council in my next letter. I think it is probably

July 25, 1931.

inadvisable to admit any person without more than one vote of approval unless there are very special reasons and the vote is acquiesced in consciously by the other members of the Council. I am also asking those who have voted in favor of a candidate who has received a vote of disapproval to let me know whether they feel very strongly and to give reasons for their vote so that their replies may be transmitted to the other members of the Council in my next letter.

As to the Council's votes on the list of candidates, I myself wish to speak particularly of one candidate, namely T. N. Carver, who has received two votes of disapproval. For my part, I feel so very strongly that I am asking for further expressions of opinion by the Council before we consider him rejected. Professor Carver's work on "The Distribution of Wealth" is the only one which has developed certain points in the coordination of distribution. If Carver is not elected, I do not know who would represent the Economics Department of Harvard University, for E. B. Wilson is in the School of Public Health of Harvard. It seems to me important to include a Harvard economist if one can be found who is up to standard.

I understand from a letter from Schumpeter that you are planning to hold a meeting of the Society in Lausanne between September 20 and 25th. Of course there will be no meeting in the United States at that time, but I shall be glad to have you arrange such a meeting in Europe if you think it advisable.

Hoping that you will send me your comments on the enclosed lists as soon as possible, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AW.t



July 27, 1951.

P.S. In addition to my previous remarks about Carver, I want to emphasize that he is known throughout the world as an economic theorist and is to read the leading paper at the Round Table on Economic Theory at the next meeting of the American Economic Association in Washington. I want also to add that I have just received a letter from one of the members of the Council withdrawing his previous objection to Carver's name as a candidate, so that Carver now has but one vote of disapproval.

August 7. 1931

My dear Division.

Thank you for your letter of July 29, with an addition of July 30.

I think as you do that the most important thing now is to try to realize the Leuven meeting this year. On view of the fact that time is getting very short I think it would be better to postpone it until October or even later. But I think we should do everything we can to actually hold it and I

I agree <sup>most definitely</sup> that it should be done <sup>officially</sup>.

~~not an official~~ the group of members <sup>who</sup> to be invited should be I think the ~~whole~~

This must be set if the meeting should be called official

group of those finally invited as chair members. The <sup>question</sup> of selection is thereby automatically solved. We need not talk about it. Only rely on the final settling of this list, work to be done by Fisher.

A quite different question is that we should by personal correspondence before the meeting make sure that a sufficient number of "the nucleus" will be present in order to impart the right spirit of the meeting.

~~Financing~~ This will ~~of course~~ be done through your the arrangement of program and speakers. I think the announcement should be definite & positive.

meeting ~~and~~ speakers I don't think a title of fellow fellows should be established at all before the meeting. You Schumpeter and I should discuss this at Leuven.

from: "Probably the ... will give com. ... the ... usually of the ... but?"

~~I am~~ As to the question of <sup>character</sup> ~~the~~ I think the formula to adopt should be this:

~~the~~

~~The selection of~~

Fellowship should most decidedly  
be a mark of superior ~~work~~ <sup>contributions</sup> in  
the study of ~~and~~ <sup>contributions to</sup> econometrics. But  
it should not be a mark of superiority in general economy.  
~~I think it would be well to state both~~  
~~these points in your memorandum.~~

I think it is most important to make this  
distinction. It seems to me that it ~~is~~  
really solving the trouble and ~~is~~ reconciles  
you and my viewpoint perfectly. ~~It is~~  
~~possible that~~  
we succeed in organizing the meeting it would  
be well ~~to~~ if you could have prepared  
a second draft of your memo which I suggest  
and I would read ~~it~~ and send back  
to you before the meeting so that ~~we~~  
~~could~~ <sup>we</sup> could pull <sup>together</sup> ~~together~~  
smoothly at the meeting, and <sup>then</sup> give you  
all our support when you open the  
discussion about the interpretation of  
the constitution.

Kordially yours



August 8, 1931

Bivina.

Thank you very much for your letter of August 4.  
~~Maybe~~ Perhaps you are right in not making any  
postponement of the Laurance meeting. At any  
rate, ~~you have~~ now <sup>that you have</sup> written to Fiske about it and  
made the announcement. I don't think any way back  
is possible. ~~The only thing I can~~ <sup>I wish you all meeting in</sup> ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~let me~~ <sup>let me</sup> ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup>  
~~that you can~~ ~~do~~ ~~if~~ ~~there~~ ~~is~~ ~~anything~~  
~~I can do to help you~~ ~~organizing~~ ~~the~~ ~~meeting~~. ~~You~~ ~~know~~  
~~that~~ ~~you~~ ~~can~~ ~~do~~ ~~more~~ ~~I~~ ~~can~~ ~~do~~. Please let me know if there is anything  
more I can do.

I have written to Fiske about A. Kemman. I was  
a lapsus ~~on~~ on my part not to propose his name  
before. ~~So~~ His doctrine ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~decidedly~~  
an economic character. I was called in to the  
University of Lund to act as the <sup>official</sup> ~~opponent~~ <sup>on the occasion</sup> ~~of~~  
His ~~is~~ a little handicapped by his deafness, but I  
think you will like him. My impression of  
Flex is ~~the~~ the same as yours that he is  
a rather poor statistician.

I have passed <sup>onto Schumpeter</sup> the copy of your letter to  
~~John~~ Fiske of August 4. I ~~can~~ ~~also~~ ~~write~~  
~~to~~ Fiske asking him ~~to~~ ~~act~~ ~~promptly~~ ~~on~~  
~~your~~ ~~letter~~.

Cordially

$$\sqrt{g_{22}} = \dots$$

$$k_{(1)} k_{(2)} = \frac{|y_{ij}|}{|g_{ij}|}$$

geslektens krus

$$K = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{\alpha\beta} x^{\alpha} x^{\beta}}{\sum_{\alpha\beta} x^{\alpha} x^{\beta}}}$$

16. aug. 1927

Divisia

I have a letter from ~~Kahn~~ Schumpeter telling me that Kuhn is not popular in Geneva and that it may be better to have somebody else act as secretary. If you have already asked Kuhn it is ~~perhaps~~ no great misfortune, but still it would be better to have somebody else. Perhaps it would be an idea to ~~have~~ <sup>choose</sup> a general secretary and ~~secretary~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~main~~ <sup>purpose</sup> of the committee readers. And have Kuhn act only in this capacity with somebody else as the main secretary. Schumpeter suggests Scroffe, ~~the~~ Keynes pupil Kahn (is he on the list?) ~~and~~ Tu Berger and Dr. Schneider (is he on the list).

I am sorry that Kuhn is not popular. I think he is just the type of man that would have made an excellent secretary.

$$\left( \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{d} = \frac{1}{d} \left( \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c} \right) = \frac{1}{d} \cdot \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b} + \frac{1}{c}}} = \dots$$

$$g_{\alpha\beta}^K$$

$$g_{\alpha\alpha}^K \quad g_{\alpha\alpha}^K$$

5

$$y^K_{\alpha\alpha} \quad y^H_{\beta\beta}$$

$$g_{\alpha\alpha}^K \quad g_{\alpha\alpha}^K \quad \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$g_{\alpha\alpha}^K \quad g_{\alpha\alpha}^H \quad g_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\alpha, \alpha', \beta$$

$$g_{\alpha\beta}^K \quad g_{\alpha\beta}^K = g_{\alpha\beta}^K \quad \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$= \Gamma_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta} + y_{\alpha\beta} y_{\alpha'\beta'}$$

$$= g_{\alpha\lambda} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\lambda} \Gamma_{\alpha'\beta'}^{\lambda} + y_{\alpha\beta} y_{\alpha'\beta'}$$

$$g_{\alpha\beta}^K = g_{\alpha\beta}^K \quad \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta} = y_{\alpha\beta} \quad y_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$y^K_{\alpha\alpha} \quad y^K_{\beta\beta} (y_{\alpha\alpha} y_{\beta\beta} - y_{\alpha\beta} y_{\alpha\beta}) = (g_{\alpha\alpha}^K - g_{\alpha\alpha}^K \Gamma_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha}) (g_{\beta\beta}^K - g_{\beta\beta}^K \Gamma_{\beta\beta}^{\beta\beta})$$

$$- (g_{\alpha\beta}^K - g_{\alpha\beta}^K \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta}) (g_{\beta\alpha}^K - g_{\beta\alpha}^K \Gamma_{\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha})$$

$$g_{\alpha\alpha}^K \quad g_{\beta\beta}^K - \Gamma_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\alpha} \Gamma_{\beta\beta}^{\beta\beta} - \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha} + g_{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\beta\beta}^{\beta\alpha}$$

$$- g_{\alpha\beta}^K \quad g_{\beta\alpha}^K + \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha} + \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha} + g_{\alpha\lambda} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\lambda} \Gamma_{\beta\alpha}^{\lambda}$$

$$= + (g_{\alpha\alpha}^K \quad g_{\beta\beta}^K - g_{\alpha\beta}^K \quad g_{\beta\alpha}^K) = g_{\alpha\lambda} (\Gamma_{\alpha\alpha}^{\alpha\lambda} \Gamma_{\beta\beta}^{\lambda} - \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\alpha\beta} \Gamma_{\beta\alpha}^{\beta\alpha})$$



August 20, 1931.

Professor Francois Divisia,  
29 rue Cecille-Dinant,  
Clamart, France.

My dear Professor Divisia:

Thank you for your letter of August 5 and for your continued and detailed interest in the Econometric Society. Of course, it is necessary to abide by our Constitution unless it is amended but, as you say, there is sufficient latitude to admit of different interpretations.

The point in which your letter most influenced me is in respect to the Charter Membership. I am now inclined to think that we should admit to Charter Membership anyone whose name would help to forward the Society. The Charter Members might be helpful in either of two ways: first, because a person is a specialist who has contributed materially in economic lines or, second, simply because he is a distinguished economist. Those of the first type would, in general eventually become Fellows. Those of the second type might never become Fellows but would typify those members who are ineligible to become Fellows.

This would be in line with your idea that the Fellows should not appear to be too aristocratic. Nevertheless, I do not fully agree with you in respect to this. I think the selection of Fellows should be such as to stimulate the ambition of the non-Fellow members to wish to become Fellows. This is the way the method works with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Statistical Association and the Royal Statistical Association, etc.

In regard to your meeting in Lausanne in September, I suggest that you invite whomever you wish to attend, but say in each case that you wish to nominate the person invited for membership in the Society, and say nothing about Charter

August 20, 1951.

Membership. It would then be quite possible for these nominations to be passed upon by the Council and a separation made between Charter Memberships to be decided on before January 1, 1951 and additional memberships to be decided on later than that date. Enclosed are two lists of names of candidates who have received favorable votes, although not yet officially elected to Charter Membership. You will doubtless wish to invite the Europeans on the lists to attend the Lausanne meeting (as nominees for Membership).

I am delighted that you are so active in your plans for the Econometric Society and hope that your meeting will be a great success.

Of course, as I wrote you in my letter of August 5 which crossed yours of August 3, we cannot call anyone, except those present at the organization meeting, a member, according to our Constitution, until his name has been passed upon by the Council. But I am confident that your plans for a meeting of nominees for membership will be worthwhile.

Very sincerely yours,

IF.W

U. B. Oslo  
Brevs. n°  
761B

~~Oslo~~  
Gundersheim Aug. 25. 1937  
Harge Mail address:  
Storg. 9. Oslo.

My dear Dina:

Thank you for your letter of Aug. 15. This letter <sup>addressed</sup> ~~directed~~ to Crowley, Stimpels and myself. The occasion of <sup>your</sup> ~~the~~ letter seems to be a circular letter you should have <sup>received</sup> ~~received~~ from Toste about ~~the~~ Aug. 15. <sup>I don't</sup> ~~know~~ <sup>quite</sup> ~~understand~~ <sup>correctly</sup> which one of Fisher's circular letters this refers to, but ~~anyhow~~ ~~the~~ ~~understand~~ of the points in your letter are quite clear and ~~to that~~ it is on the point of those I am answering.

It seems to have become clear by now ~~I think~~ that the nomination ~~of~~ <sup>and needs more clarification</sup> not only of the fellows but also of chapter members, will take <sup>more time</sup> ~~more time~~ <sup>than we had envisaged.</sup> ~~planned.~~ <sup>It will be quite impossible if we are to have this question originally planned.</sup> ~~If we should~~ ~~wait still further,~~ ~~or changing correspondence~~ ~~stick~~ to our original idea of not inviting to Lausanne ~~any other~~ <sup>(with)</sup> ~~though~~ you or Fisher) any other persons than those ~~on~~ <sup>list of</sup> ~~the~~ who ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> already on the ~~chapter~~ <sup>chapter</sup> ~~members~~ <sup>members</sup> ~~list~~ or whose acceptance on this list ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> only a ~~question~~ <sup>matter</sup> of formality. ~~we would not~~ ~~it~~ the whole planning of the <sup>Lausanne</sup> ~~meeting~~ would run into complete ~~confusion~~ <sup>if necessary</sup> or there would be no meeting at all. I therefore propose that we make the following ~~the~~ change in policy. As you will notice the change ~~is~~ <sup>only</sup> regards the ~~form~~ <sup>form</sup> of the invitation and should not ~~in any way~~ <sup>in any way</sup> impede the real work of the meeting. Just the contrary I think.

Called finally out in a satisfactory way before the Lausanne meeting. Therefore

I propose that ~~we make~~ the meeting en petit comité which you have envisaged for the day before the opening of the ~~main~~ <sup>main</sup> session should be made an official meeting of the European Council members, called in by ~~the~~



you as the vice president of the Society. You will remember that you as vice president are vested <sup>with</sup> power to act in ~~the~~ matters ~~of~~ immediately ~~connected~~ <sup>with</sup> the ~~concerning~~ the European ~~functioning~~ <sup>activities</sup> of the Society.

At this meeting <sup>en petit comité</sup> we should discuss thoroughly ~~upon~~ <sup>on the organization of the Society</sup> the new version of your memorandum <sup>and</sup> also the question of ~~full~~ <sup>full</sup> charter members and fellows, and other ~~what~~ questions concerning the Society. I deem it very important ~~that~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ ~~meeting~~

of the large ~~meeting~~ <sup>meeting</sup> to be ~~officially~~ <sup>officially</sup> opened the next day should be a meeting of those ~~whom~~ <sup>whom</sup> ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> think whose acceptance as ordinary members ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> in our estimation is only a matter of formality. Since we have ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> act quickly the only possible procedure ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> that you, ~~Provozy, Dinnik, Truch, Schuyet~~ <sup>Provozy, Dinnik, Truch, Schuyet</sup> and I ~~take~~ <sup>take</sup> the responsibility for making up ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> list. ~~It~~ <sup>It</sup> would not be a very heavy one, ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> we ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> not of course state in the invitation that the official acceptance of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~name~~ <sup>name</sup> of the ~~invited~~ <sup>invited</sup> person ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> the Society must be sanctioned by the ~~council~~ <sup>council</sup> and the fellows, ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> the ~~list~~ <sup>list</sup> of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~invitations~~ <sup>invitations</sup> for the current year ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~yet~~ <sup>yet</sup> ~~fully~~ <sup>fully</sup> ~~established~~ <sup>established</sup> but ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> the ~~person~~ <sup>person</sup> in question would be ~~proposed~~ <sup>proposed</sup> recommended by ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~four~~ <sup>four</sup> ~~members~~ <sup>members</sup> ~~Provozy, Dinnik, Truch~~ <sup>Provozy, Dinnik, Truch</sup> and Schuyet. It should of course also be explained in the ~~letter~~ <sup>letter</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~invitation~~ <sup>invitation</sup> that we had had recourse to this procedure in order to make ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~meeting~~ <sup>meeting</sup> possible at all, ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~important~~ <sup>important</sup> to give the Society ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~start~~ <sup>start</sup>. As an introduction to the letter of invitation ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>must</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~establishment~~ <sup>establishment</sup> and scope of the Society

of course state in the invitation that the official acceptance of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~name~~ <sup>name</sup> of the ~~invited~~ <sup>invited</sup> person ~~by~~ <sup>by</sup> the Society must be sanctioned by the ~~council~~ <sup>council</sup> and the fellows, ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> the ~~list~~ <sup>list</sup> of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~invitations~~ <sup>invitations</sup> for the current year ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~yet~~ <sup>yet</sup> ~~fully~~ <sup>fully</sup> ~~established~~ <sup>established</sup> but ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> the ~~person~~ <sup>person</sup> in question would be ~~proposed~~ <sup>proposed</sup> recommended by ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~four~~ <sup>four</sup> ~~members~~ <sup>members</sup> ~~Provozy, Dinnik, Truch~~ <sup>Provozy, Dinnik, Truch</sup> and Schuyet. It should of course also be explained in the ~~letter~~ <sup>letter</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~invitation~~ <sup>invitation</sup> that we had had recourse to this procedure in order to make ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~meeting~~ <sup>meeting</sup> possible at all, ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~important~~ <sup>important</sup> to give the Society ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~start~~ <sup>start</sup>. As an introduction to the letter of invitation ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>must</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~establishment~~ <sup>establishment</sup> and scope of the Society

had not yet been established but that the ~~person~~ <sup>person</sup> in question would be ~~proposed~~ <sup>proposed</sup> recommended by ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~four~~ <sup>four</sup> ~~members~~ <sup>members</sup> ~~Provozy, Dinnik, Truch~~ <sup>Provozy, Dinnik, Truch</sup> and Schuyet. It should of course also be explained in the ~~letter~~ <sup>letter</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~invitation~~ <sup>invitation</sup> that we had had recourse to this procedure in order to make ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~meeting~~ <sup>meeting</sup> possible at all, ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~important~~ <sup>important</sup> to give the Society ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~start~~ <sup>start</sup>. As an introduction to the letter of invitation ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>must</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~establishment~~ <sup>establishment</sup> and scope of the Society

By this procedure the question of charter members and fellows would not be raised at all in connection with the Lausanne meeting. And ~~we~~ <sup>we</sup> ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> would be possible for us to give the meeting ~~more~~ <sup>more</sup> ~~ampleur~~ <sup>ampleur</sup> by inviting a larger number

*shades perhaps  
of the  
I hope it can be  
arranged so that  
Provozy can attend  
at least this Council  
meeting on his  
way from Moscow  
to London ~~and~~  
~~be~~ ~~able~~ ~~to~~ ~~attend~~  
~~the~~*

*ment of course he explains.  
Perhaps one could simply quote  
the first section of the constitution, and the official  
compact rendering of the  
Lausanne meeting (made  
by Provozy).*



may these

be sent as soon as possible ~~not~~ to Bowly, Schumpeter and myself, with the request that we send the documents back to you with our comments, by return of mail. Those ~~persons~~ <sup>persons</sup> ~~names~~ on ~~the~~ your list to which neither Bowly, Schumpeter or I ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~speakers~~ could then be immediately invited by you without any further correspondence between us, ~~with the very perhaps~~

and those objected to by any of us could be left out without any more fuss. If any of us should want to suggest further names, these may be incorporated in a second list which should have been ~~submitted~~ <sup>submitted</sup> by Schumpeter, Bowly, and myself. <sup>Elaboration</sup> ~~but the working~~ out of this second list ought not to delay the sending out of the invitations according to the first list which ~~it will~~ <sup>I think</sup> to desirable to have ~~before~~ <sup>before</sup> your receipt of the documents. ~~four months~~ <sup>four months</sup> ~~will be needed~~ <sup>will be needed</sup> to your first list.

~~have suggestions as to the wording of the letter of invitation, but~~ Regarding the final wording of the letter of invitation, you ~~would~~ <sup>will</sup> of course ~~take care of that,~~ <sup>take care of that,</sup> ~~over~~ <sup>over</sup> judgement utilizing if you think it desirable whatever suggestions you may have received from the three of us ~~with the~~ <sup>with the</sup> ~~in the letter by committee~~ <sup>in the letter by committee</sup> ~~when we returned~~ <sup>when we returned</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~but not taking the trouble to~~ <sup>but not taking the trouble to</sup> ~~confer with us on the final form.~~ <sup>confer with us on the final form.</sup> ~~This would only be a useless loss of time.~~ <sup>This would only be a useless loss of time.</sup>

In addition to this circular letter of invitation you would of course ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> have to coordinate the ~~and detailed~~ <sup>and detailed</sup> correspondence with the ~~there would~~ <sup>there would</sup> of course have to be some more detailed correspondence with the speakers on the program.

The organization of the meeting <sup>will</sup> of course entail some work. Do you think it <sup>will</sup> be all right to state in the letter of invitation ~~that the~~ <sup>that the</sup> ~~of four francs~~ <sup>of four francs</sup> ~~is due for attending the meeting~~ <sup>is due for attending the meeting</sup>

The account of the receipts and expenses ~~being~~ <sup>being</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~meeting~~ <sup>meeting</sup> to be submitted to the responsible financial body ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> provided for by the Constitution of the Society. ~~Suppose~~ <sup>Suppose</sup> What other means of providing money do we have? Of course ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~arrangement~~ <sup>arrangement</sup> will be a very inexperienced one, but some expense will have to be. Perhaps it would be <sup>(without further delay)</sup> advisable ~~right~~ <sup>right</sup> to ~~select~~ <sup>select</sup> designate one of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~senior~~ <sup>senior</sup> ~~members~~ <sup>members</sup> of the inner circle to act as treasurer. ~~There~~ <sup>You</sup> will of course ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~expense~~ <sup>expense</sup> ~~connected~~ <sup>connected</sup> already ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> the circular letter of invitation, and it would only be just that ~~these~~ <sup>these</sup> ~~expenses~~ <sup>expenses</sup> should ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> ~~covered~~ <sup>covered</sup> by go in as part of the ~~general~~ <sup>general</sup> ~~expense~~ <sup>expense</sup> ~~of the meeting~~ <sup>of the meeting</sup>, however ~~there~~ <sup>there</sup> are to be ~~covered~~ <sup>covered</sup> in the end.



If you, Schuyler and Bowley agree that we ought to fix such a due, it ~~must~~ should be explained, <sup>I think</sup> to those preparing papers that they ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> exempt from ~~such~~ <sup>this</sup> due. ~~This is certainly not a very grandiose honorarium, but at least it demonstrates our~~ ~~with~~ ~~desire~~ ~~to~~ ~~(but)~~

recognition and our desire to do ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> best we can.

If ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~idea~~ <sup>to take action along</sup> ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~line~~ ~~has~~ been prepared, ~~it is~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~in~~ ~~opposition~~ ~~with~~ ~~a~~ ~~possible~~ ~~invitation~~ ~~from~~ ~~Fisher~~ ~~to~~ ~~check~~ ~~members~~ ~~of~~ ~~to~~ ~~attend~~ ~~the~~ ~~meeting~~ ~~of~~ ~~Laurance~~ ~~and~~ ~~New~~ ~~Orleans~~ ~~(along~~ ~~the~~ ~~line~~ ~~as~~ ~~you~~ ~~have~~ ~~previously~~ ~~suggested~~ ~~to~~ ~~Fisher).~~ ~~If~~ ~~such~~ ~~an~~ ~~invitation~~ ~~from~~ ~~Fisher~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~effected~~ ~~and~~ ~~subsequent~~ ~~to~~ ~~it~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~possible~~ ~~for~~ ~~Fisher~~ ~~to~~ ~~get~~ ~~this~~ ~~invitation~~ ~~from~~ ~~under~~ ~~practical~~ ~~arrangements~~ ~~for~~ ~~that~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~such~~ ~~an~~ ~~invitation~~ ~~to~~ ~~(perhaps~~ ~~to~~ ~~a~~ ~~small~~ ~~list~~ ~~of~~ ~~persons~~ ~~of~~ ~~whose~~ ~~candidate~~ ~~for~~ ~~Chaker~~ ~~membership~~ ~~there~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ ~~no~~ ~~doubt),~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~ ~~the~~ ~~better.~~ ~~This~~ ~~would~~ ~~mean~~ ~~Chaker~~ ~~members~~ ~~and~~ ~~would~~ ~~not~~ ~~only~~ ~~be~~ ~~a~~ ~~suggestion~~ ~~for~~ ~~our~~ ~~action~~ ~~regarding~~ ~~the~~ ~~large~~ ~~group~~ ~~and~~ ~~as~~ ~~yet~~ ~~not~~

In view of ~~the~~ <sup>now</sup> above proposal I don't think it is necessary to enter into a detailed discussion of the ~~possible~~ <sup>which</sup> candidates for Chaker - membership you mention in your letter. I only want to point out that I ~~must~~

~~[Satan puts his nose to the - telegraph line]~~

~~My~~ <sup>recommend</sup> ~~back~~ ~~Feulhen~~ ~~as~~ ~~strongly~~ ~~as~~ ~~I~~ ~~can.~~ ~~He~~ ~~has~~ ~~recently~~ ~~become~~ ~~full~~ ~~professor~~ ~~of~~ ~~Economics~~ ~~in~~ ~~Leipzig~~ ~~and~~ ~~has~~ ~~incorporated~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~several~~ ~~mathematical~~ ~~or~~ ~~semi-mathematical~~ ~~papers~~ ~~(amongst~~ ~~other~~ ~~papers~~ ~~by~~

Hobelling and myself). I am sure that Schumpeter will agree with me that Bentzen ought to be at least charter member.

The following is a list of Scandinavians whom I suggest be <sup>incorporated (in your list)</sup> ~~invited~~ on the basis explained above. It is true that ~~the~~ most of these <sup>Scandinavians</sup> do not occur in ~~the~~ any of the previous lists but they ~~do not~~ ~~occur~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~way~~ — ~~about~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~time~~ ~~as~~ ~~there~~ ~~is~~ ~~an~~ ~~special~~ ~~and~~ ~~I~~ ~~think~~ ~~reasons~~ ~~including~~ ~~them~~: During the Nordic Economic meeting in Stockholm in July of this year I discussed with professor Wederway of Oslo (who was one of the charter members who were present in Cleveland) which ones of those present at the Nordic meeting ~~was~~ ~~he~~ ~~mentioned~~ ~~slightly~~ ~~and~~ ~~interesting~~ ~~members~~ of the Econometric Society. We called a meeting of those and ~~explained~~ ~~to~~ ~~them~~ ~~about~~ ~~the~~ ~~formation~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~society~~, explained that ~~the~~ ~~purpose~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~society~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~bring~~ ~~together~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Scandinavian~~ ~~economists~~. I had no power to invite them as members but that I would ~~like~~ ~~to~~ ~~recommend~~ ~~them~~ ~~if~~ ~~they~~ ~~came~~ ~~to~~ ~~join~~ ~~and~~ ~~that~~ ~~I~~ ~~would~~ ~~like~~ ~~an~~ ~~expression~~ ~~of~~ ~~opinion~~ ~~from~~ ~~them~~. All of them ~~who~~ ~~expressed~~ ~~their~~ ~~wholehearted~~ ~~sympathy~~. I ~~am~~ ~~not~~ ~~sure~~ ~~if~~ ~~I~~ ~~am~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~mountain~~ ~~and~~ ~~have~~ ~~not~~ ~~at~~ ~~hand~~ ~~an~~ ~~exact~~ ~~copy~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~list~~ ~~of~~ ~~names~~ ~~but~~ ~~I~~ ~~think~~ ~~I~~ ~~remember~~ ~~most~~ ~~of~~ ~~them~~: ~~(The names were sent to files)~~

Denmark

- ~~Prof. Bentzen~~ <sup>Prof. of Economics</sup> Univ. of Copenhagen
- ~~Dr. Jørgen Pedersen~~
- ~~Mykoll~~, assist. prof. of Statistics Univ. of Copenhagen
- Jørgen Pedersen, Dir. } The institute of Social Science and History, Copenhagen
- Carl Overman }

Sweden

- John Sherman, <sup>(leader of the statistics department)</sup> ~~Statistics Bureau~~
- Cramer, Prof. of Mathematics, ~~Stockholm University~~ <sup>connected with the institute of social science in Stockholm.</sup>

Norway

- Wederway Prof. of Econ. Univ. of Oslo (one of those present at the Cleveland meeting)
- Henrik Palmstrøm, actuary and <sup>leader</sup> ~~director~~ of the ~~statistical~~ ~~committee~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~university~~ ~~of~~ ~~Oslo~~.

~~French & other names~~

~~A group of people follow from Sweden but I don't know in the market that they should not be not to call to come in hand because he is~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~mentioned~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~list~~ ~~of~~ ~~names~~ ~~in~~ ~~addition~~

to these <sup>above</sup> I would <sup>like to</sup> recommend the name Edw. Mackehrans <sup>statistician of the</sup> ~~committee~~ <sup>of</sup> who was I think the first to attempt the demand curper. (1907).

25/8 1951  
7.

~~all~~ I don't think that all the above persons are eligible as check members, and still less as fellows. But I feel convinced that <sup>all of them</sup> they are of the type of people we would like to see as members, and that is why I recommend them in this connection. If they are accepted I think the invitation to the whole Danish group for simplicity could be sent to Zeebren, while I could take care of the Norwegians. Abraham is already invited, and Brauer could be addressed directly.

Regarding the others to be <sup>included in your list</sup> ~~invited~~ I do not want to make any suggestion. Perhaps the simplest thing would be to <sup>let this list include</sup> ~~invite~~ all <sup>the Americans</sup> those on Fisher's tentative list with the addition of those suggested ~~by~~ names ~~suggested~~ which have ~~been~~ been suggested ~~the~~ ~~course~~ of the discussion ~~on~~ by Schumpeter, ~~and~~ ~~you~~ ~~and~~ ~~perhaps~~ ~~others~~ in the discussion that has ~~if~~ taken place <sup>subsequently to Fisher's list</sup> ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~discussion~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~composition~~ of your ~~list~~ ~~should~~ have no objection to such a ~~list~~ <sup>composition of your</sup> ~~list~~.

For your convenience in explaining the situation when you write to Schumpeter and Bowley I enclose <sup>extra</sup> two ~~copies~~ <sup>copies</sup> of the present letter. <sup>I have had to</sup> ~~they are~~ ~~nothing~~ ~~in~~ ~~your~~ ~~hand~~, because I am in the mountain and have ~~not~~ ~~secretarial~~ ~~help~~.

Love  
As ever  
Cordially Yours



67 B  
My dear Divisia:

Excuse me for not having answered your letter of Oct. 3 until now. Here is my reaction to your remarks in regard to Schumpeters and my memo of Sep. 28.:

My feeling has been that the Econometric Society should be first of all an economic Society. This is the reason why I have thought there might be reason for not being quite as liberal in exempting economist-members ~~from~~ from dues as in exempting other kinds of members. However, you will notice that in our memo we did not put up as an absolute rule that no economist could be exempt. We used the expression "most of, if not all"; ...the economist should pay dues. So there does not seem to be any very great divergency between our views so far as this practical question is concerned. I will even add that I do not consider this question as being of any very great importance. Therefore if you attach ~~ex~~ much importance to it I would not mind ~~taking~~ acquiescing in your proposal, provided Schumpeter and the other Council members do not raise any serious objection to it.

Our difference on this point is not so much a question of some dollars more or less as a question of the general attitude towards this group of people whom we could designate under the name "men of fame and influence". As you know from Schumpeters and my memo of Sep. 28, we agree that some of these men be invited as charter members. This may be useful. But I do not think we should go too far in the direction of seeking the protection of ~~the existing generation~~ that generation which has now arrived to the stage of influence and power. If the idea of the Econometric Society has the right of life it will win with or without the protection of the older generation. And if it has not the right of life no amount of protection will save us. My feeling is therefore that we should rather trust our own power of doing good work. It is ~~the~~ the organization and coordination of the work of our group that we shall finally obtain recognition. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ In connection with this question you mention the possibility of obtaining the "patronage" of learned societies such as l'Académie des sciences" etc. I have no objection to the Econometric Society applying for membership in learned Societies. The best thing would perhaps be to take them one at a time and begin by the American Society for the Advancement of Science. But I am most emphatically against the Econometric Society seeking any other sort of official recognition. I revolt against being patted kindly on the back.

In regard to the list of fellows I insist on this list being very restricted. We have now opened all the other doors of the Society to all sorts of influences. This last inner circle must be very carefully selected. Otherwise the whole idea of the Society will go lost. It is with the understanding that this inner circle shall be very restricted that I have acquiesced in enlarging the group of charter members and the group of ordinary members. I hope most sincerely that you will agree with Schumpeter and me in the policy of restriction in regard to the fellows.

Needless to say the above remarks stand only for my own account. I have not conferred with Schumpeter in the matter. But I think that he would agree on the main points.

Cordially yours

Ragnar Frisch



Storgt.9  
Oslo

Oct.24,1931

My dear Divisia:

I hope you do not mind that I have written to the council members asking them to submit to you proposals for charter members. Since you are the vice president of the Econometric Society it seemed to me that this was the only thing to do if we should organize something on this side.

On second thought I find that I want to propose as charter members the six Scandinavians mentioned in my last letter, namely:

Sweden: Prof. Ohlin Stockholms Högskola  
Prof. Sven Dag Wicksell Univ. of Lund

Denmark: Lektor Hans C. Nybølle, Det Statistiske Departement  
(København) Copenhagen  
Dr. Jørgen Pedersen. University of Copenhagen

Professor Schumpeter and I have written to Irving Fisher directly proposing Professor Zeuthen as a charter member. In order to be quite sure that he is included I want by the present to propose him also on the list which is now to be made up by the European Council Members.

I hope that Mrs. Divisia is getting better. With best personal regards

Cordially yours

Ragnar Frisch

Norway: Director Gunnar Jahn, Central Bureau of Statistics  
Actuary Henrik Palmström, Brage Oslo. Oslo

Oslo  
/s. nr.  
1 B

Storgt.9,Oslo, Nov.5,1931

My dear Professor Divisia; and Professor Schumpeter:

I suppose you have received a communication from Professor Fisher in regard to the offer from Mr. Cowles 3rd. of financing a journal for the Econometric Society. According to the information available my impression is that the offer is a favorable one which we must ~~take~~<sup>consider</sup> very seriously. However, the final decision must of course be taken by the Council after the detailed plans of the arrangement have been studied. There is also ample time for such a study. The delay of a month or two in the carrying out of these plans does not mean very much. It seems to me that the best thing to do would be to have Mr. Cowles meet some of the European Council members in London some time in January. From what I understand Mr. Cowles is a wealthy man with no obligations in the U.S. to hold him back from a trip to Europe. And I should think that it would be possible to gather in London at least the councilmembers Bowley, Divisia, Schumpeter and myself. The matter is a very important one and I think this procedure would be desirable. What do you think of it? I have today cabled Fisher as per enclosed copy.

I understand that the European Councilmembers have on the whole not considered it worth while to send to Divisia their proposals for charter members, as I suggested in my circular letter of Oct.15. In this situation it will probably be best to wait and see how extensive a list will finally be elected through the initiative of the Americans. And then if necessary revert to the question when this list has been elected.

Cordially yours  
Ragnar Frisch





Storgt.9 Oslo  
Nov. 23.1931

Oslo  
nr.  
B

My dear Divisia:

Thank you for your letter of Nov.19 which I have just received.  
You said that ~~there should be~~<sup>you</sup> enclosed copy of a letter to Fisher, but no such copy was enclosed. I suppose this copy must have contained some supplementary information. In any case I did not understand quite what you meant to answer to the question in my letter of Nov.12. The question is this: What do you think I should answer Fisher <sup>in re the Bowley proposition</sup>? I am under the obligation to cable him as soon as possible. Please let me have your opinion at your earliest convenience.

With the best personal regards, your  
sincere friend

Ragnar Frisch

P.S. I received <sup>yesterday</sup> an invitation to deliver a series of lectures at the Institut Henri Poincaré, Paris some time in the near future. I suppose you have had something to do with it. If so I thank you very much. I consider the invitation as a very flattering one. I do not know as yet, however, whether I shall be able to accept it or not.