

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

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to send

June 5, 1948

Professor Ragnar Frisch
Universitetets Socialøkonomiske
Institutt
Oslo, Norway

Dear Professor Frisch:

X
I certainly will study with great interest your preliminary memorandum on "A System of Concepts Describing the Economic Circulation and Production Process." Since the manuscript has not yet arrived, and I am leaving for Europe in a few days, would you be kind enough to mail a duplicate copy to my European address, Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, A.P.O. 541, c/o Postmaster, New York City. We will have there a group of young economists from various European countries who certainly would be very interested to acquaint themselves with the contents of your paper. So, if you could mail some additional copies, they would be put to good use.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Wassily Leontief
Wassily Leontief

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

October 25, 1955

*Small number
Germanic
Editorial
Policy*

Professor Ragnar Frisch
Universitetets Sosialokonomiske Institutt
Karl Johans Gate 47
Oslo, Norway

Dear Frisch:

I have received your letter of October 22 with the enclosed Memorandum to the members of the Editorial Board of *Econometrica*. I am happy to know that your original doubts about the recent changes in the editorial organization of *Econometrica* have, to a large extent, disappeared. This pleases me the more that, as you certainly know, I was responsible for the initiation of the "reform movement" which ultimately led to the proposal and acceptance of these changes.

Your suggestions for a more systematic approach to production of survey articles make very good sense. Only the idea of a separate group to be in charge of popularization does not appeal to me very much. It implies a two-stage sifting of the original contributions which are being surveyed and might prove to be unduly wasteful both of writing efforts and final contents.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Wassily Leontief

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

February 13, 1947

Professor Ragnar Frisch
Norwegian Delegation to the United Nations
6228 Empire State Building
New York 1, New York

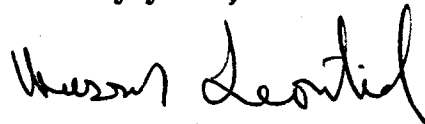
Dear Professor Frisch:

Under separate envelope, I have mailed you the document pertaining to the problems which we considered as a possible subject of discussion at the Geneva Conference.

I forgot to ask you to write to me before your departure from this country about the (positive or negative) results of your exploratory talk with the Secretariat. In order to be able to absent myself from Cambridge in May, I would have to have an advance notice which would leave time enough for re-arrangement of courses, etc.

It was very nice to have talked with you.
With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Wassily Leontief

Dear Dr. Frish;

Harvard

Cambridge, Mass
May 28, 1946

In a few days you will receive a letter from the International Student Service asking you to help in selection of one or two advanced Norwegian economic students to take part in an International Seminar which will be held in Salzburg, Austria during six weeks beginning July 15th. It is an enterprise initiated and advanced to the stage of final realization by American Student organizations. Conceived not as a "fraternization congress" but as a serious attempt at intellectual cooperation it will bring together ninety(90) young European scholars and a number of American representatives various fields of humanistic and social disciplines. I will represent Economics. All expenses - including travel - of European members will be paid by the Student organization (its European headquarters are in Geneva). Since the success of the whole enterprise will essentially depend upon the choice of participants, your help in selecting the Norwegian members would be particularly appreciated. I will fly from Boston to London on July 12 and proceed to Salzburg via Paris. I expect to return to the U.S. by the same route, on August 15 - 20th.

Thanks for the interesting report on international trade. I am sending to you my recent article in the Bulletin of the American Math. Society. Don't you think that the problem of national and international structural matrices should be put on the program of the International Statistical Congress?

With best regards,

W. V. D. 1-1

June 16, 1948.

Professor Wassily Leontief,
Salzburg Seminar in American Studies,
Castle Leopoldskron,
Salzburg,
Austria.

Dear Professor Leontief,

At the request of Professor Frisch I am to-day sending you,
under separate cover, 7 copies of the memorandum "A System of Concepts
Describing the Economic Circulation and Production Process".

Sincerely yours

Inger Østraat
Secretary to Professor Frisch.

*Sketch of
the main idea is
now written with Frisch*

Leontief

January 19, 1949

Mr. Odd Aukrust
c/o Mrs. P.E. Pilditch
69 Home Park Road
Wimbledon Park
London S.W. 19

Dear Aukrust:

I was delaying answering your letter in the hope of being able to tell you something definite concerning my ability to participate in the proposed technical conference to be held in Oslo after the Cambridge conference on national income.

I have no doubt that a thorough discussion of our common problems would be highly beneficial and thus in principle I certainly would favor such a meeting. The question is how one could secure the funds necessary to bring across the ocean at least two or three persons who should participate in such a discussion. I understand that not more than five Americans will get their expenses paid for coming to Cambridge, and I doubt very much that among these will be the people who could profitably go to Oslo. Thus it would be necessary to secure some funds from a different source.

It is possible that the Rockefeller Foundation might be willing to provide the funds, and I will maybe write to them on the subject. The success of such a request would depend however upon the presentation of a definite proof that on the European side there also is a serious interest in the problems to be discussed. Thus I would suggest that Professor Frisch and, if possible, also some other European economists address a similar request to Mr. Willits of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York or to Dr. Buchanan, their European Representative. In London you could talk about it to Professor R.G.D. Allen.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Professor Frisch.

With best regards,

Wassily Leontief

cc Professor Frisch ✓

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE STRUCTURE
OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

LITTAUER CENTER 308
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

January 19, 1949

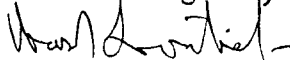
Professor Ragnar Frisch
Vinderen
Oslo, Norway

Dear Professor Frsich:

Mr. Aukrust wrote me inquiring about the possibility of holding a small technical conference in Oslo after conclusion of the National Income meetings in Cambridge this summer. Enclosed you find the copy of the answer which I sent to his English address.

Many thanks for the interesting papers which I have been receiving during the last months from your Institute.

With best regards,



Wassily Leontief

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

October 20, 1949

Professor Ragnar Frisch
Universitetets Sosialøkonomiske
Institutt
Oslo, Norway

Dear Professor Frisch:

In the course of the last two years a number of European economists and economic statisticians have expressed an interest in the recent development of what we in the United States call the "input-output" approach to the study of the structure and operation of a national economy. The idea of a technical conference which would bring together a small group of, say, fifteen persons from various European countries and the United States, specifically concerned with that new method of analysis, has been repeatedly mentioned in this connection.

I am writing to ask whether in your opinion such a conference, assuming that ways and means are available for its organization, would actually serve a useful purpose. A recent conversation which I had with an officer of the Rockefeller Foundation indicated that, in case a real and active interest in such a conference had been established, the Foundation would most likely be ready to furnish the necessary funds, sufficient to cover also traveling expenses of some fifteen members. The meeting - of a week's duration - could be held in September or October of the coming year (1950). Basle or The Hague were suggested as possible places.

Professor Ragnar Frisch 2

October 20, 1949

I would appreciate it very much if you could let me know, if possible without much delay, whether in your opinion such a conference would be desirable and whether you yourself would be interested in taking an active part in its organization. In suggesting the names of possible participants, please take into account the upper limit in the total membership.

Yours very truly,

Wassily Leontief

Wassily Leontief

77
11

2. November 1949

RF|Iϕ

Professor Wassily Leontief,
Harvard University,
Department of Economics,
Cambridge 38,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

My dear Leontief,

Thank you for yours of 20. October.

I am very interested in your suggestion and I would myself try to contribute as best I could and I certainly would like to take part in the conference. I would prefer to see it held not earlier than the middle of September and preferably somewhat later. Basle or the Hague would be excellent places.

I am not prepared at the moment to suggest further names, but I might be able to do so when I have somewhat clearer idea of what is going to take place. For instance, should emphasis be put on the mathematical aspect or on ways and means to obtain necessary statistics?

In any case I think 15 is an excellent membership.

Cordially yours

Ragnar Frisch

Dictated but not signed.

Inger ϕstraat
Secretary to Professor Frisch

AIRMAIL

1
October 1950

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

May 16, 1955

Pos. 4.4 party's plate

Professor Ragnar Frisch
Universitetets Sosialøkonomiske Institutt
Midtbygningen, Karl Johans Gate 47.
Oslo, Norway

Dear Professor Frisch:

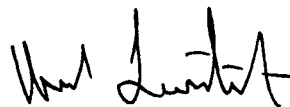
I want to tell you how very pleased I am at your election as the first recipient of the newly established Schumpeter Memorial Prize. I am sure that Schumpeter himself would have been delighted with that choice.

I assume that you have by now returned from India. At the time you were there, I was spending a month advising in the nearby Pakistan. The difficulties faced by these countries are quite appalling. I hope they will be able to overcome them.

Tibor Barna writes me that the Varenna volume is about ready to go to press. I hope that your own contribution--the linear programming paper--has in the meantime reached him.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Wassily Leontief

21 May 1955

RF/IØ

Professor Wassily Leontief,
Department of Economics,
Harvard University,
Cambridge 38,
Massachusetts,
U.S.A.

My dear Leontief,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May.

It was a great surprise and indeed a very pleasant one, to receive your letter telling of my election as the first recipient of the newly established Schumpeter Memorial Price. I have had no official notification of it, but I feel certainly thankful and honoured. I am particularly happy to think of this as an honour connected with Schumpeter's name.

Yes - I have now returned from India. It was indeed a great experience in many ways. What I did was to prepare the ground for real planning in terms of such refined techniques as linear programming and the like. There was a great deal of interest in the subject, and I hope that a seed has been planted which will grow.

With best regards,

Cordially yours

Ragnar Frisch

22/5-55

P.S. I am flying to Paris today to take part in a seminar on Geonometrics. Perhaps we meet^a.