

May 21. 1958

Prof. Dr. C. Bresciani-Turroni  
Giza.

My dear professor Bresciani-Turroni.

As you may know I have for some time acted as a sort of research consultant to the Cowles Commission~~s~~ for Research in Economics. In the near future I shall probably be called upon to give my advice regarding possible candidates for the research directorship of the organization. It occurred to me that you may possibly be interested in such a position and that it would therefore be expedient to discuss the matter with you. You understand of course that I have no authority from the president of the Commission~~s~~, Mr. Cowles to offer you the position, and that at this stage I am only wishing to give you in a personal way some information~~s~~ regarding the work of the Commission and to find out whether you could at all conceive of the idea of going there as a research director.

The Commission is I think well equipped to do fine research work in econometrics. It has a number of trained computers, and a good battery of computing machines, including a complete Hollerith outfit. The research associates and research fellows are good men of considerable possibility, but at present not of sufficient maturity neither in economics nor in statistics to plan and conduct research of important dimensions. To do this would be the duty of the new research director. I am sure that if a really good man came at the

21/5-1938

2.

head of the organization he would be given considerable leave-way in shaping the work according to his own ideas. The work ought therefore to offer a real opportunity for a man who has research ideas in econometrics and who needs the aid of a well equipped organization to carry the work through. One fact that should be remembered in this connection is that the director would have excellent publishing facilities, and in the reports and other communications from the Commission the directors name would of course allways be featured.

I understand that if additional financial support for the Commission materializes, it is contemplated to fix the research directors salary at something between 8000 and 10000 dollars a year. At present, however, I believe it will be 5000 or 6000 dollars, and a guarantee will be given for 3 years salary subsequent to notification of intention to terminate the employment.

The living in Colorado Springs is less expensive than in the big cities in the east. Colorado Springs is a very agreeable place to live. The scenery in front of the mountains is wonderful, and the climate delightful. I know it from personal experience in the summertime, and I understand that also the wintertime is agreeable.

I should be very interested to know whether you would at all be interested in the possibility. If you are, I think I would suggest to Mr. Cowles that he meets your expenses on a trip to Colorado some time this summer or autumn to look things over. I think he would agree to this even if it could not be done during the Cowles Conference. If you could go during the conference I think, you would enjoy it even more as there is

21/5-1938

3.

then usually a number of interesting people gathered around the Commission.

I shall be looking forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours

Ragnar Frisch