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## Letter to Edward C. Tolman from Ludwig Edelstein, January 20, 1955

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### [Letter, January 20, 1955]

Baltimore-16, Md., Jan. 20, 55

3732 Winterbourne Road

Dear Edward:

Thank you so much for your two recent letters, the second one written in clarification of the first. While I was just trying to puzzle out the difficulties, I was confused afresh by a letter from Stanley. You talked of principles practically agreed upon by you and the Faculty Fund; he informs me that he has already agreed to a suggestion made to him, and proposes to send me a bill in accordance with this suggestion.

Now, I cannot believe that in this matter anyone would have made an agreement with Stanley without first hearing from those who are to be partners to it. I therefore assume that there must be some misunderstanding somewhere along the line, and I shall set down my objections to the plan, as I am sure I would have stated them had I been present during all these negotiations.

1. Our law suit never was, either in fact, or in intention, a business proposition. The money recovered for us is in no way a gain or a profit, but simply the amount which the Regents illegally withheld and therefore owed us. Weigel took on the case knowing this full well and as a protest against unlawful political pressure. (I wish to mention in this connection that the lawyers who are defending Lattimore are not charging him one cent over and above their expenses, and it seems to me that their's is a far greater risk and responsibility). Weigel never mentioned that he intended eventually to get a substantial share of our back salary. Nor do I see any justification for this, and in fact, I would find it rather reprehensible. The 20% and 30% of our respective salaries, if I am not mistaken, would amount to some 65,000 dollars - not a small sum, to put it mildly.

2. That I myself could not pay 20% of my salary to Weigel, you will have concluded from my last letter to you. If it is agreed that he really should get such a share, I should have to accept the help offered by the Faculty Fund, and I am sure the same is true of other resigners. This I should find a very difficult thing to do. Owing my salary to my colleagues did not bother me. Even if I could never have repaid it, I should have felt no qualms. Our fight was their fight too, and we had to live after all. But to be indebted to others for paying what in my opinion is an unjustifiable remuneration, I would find very irksome.

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3. I do see the necessity for doing something that is within reason. We should probably be willing not to recover the \$ 150 which we contributed at the beginning of the last suit. It is also reasonable, I think, that like the others we should be taxed 2% of our salary as a contribution to the Defense Fund. But the amount left over after this - if the friendly signers are gracious enough not to want their money back - should be set up as an emergency fund for others who may find themselves in a plight similar to ours. This had been suggested over and over again in the past. God knows, it still is a good plan, and money for such a purpose is perhaps more urgently needed today than ever before. But the money should not be used to pay a well-to-do lawyer, who fought for a principle and got lots of publicity for this courageous act - fees as only big companies can afford to pay. I asked some of my business friends here what they thought of the proposed agreement, and even they

were quite astounded at the munificence of such a solution.

I am very sorry that for the first time in the long history of our case I find myself in total disagreement with you and some of the members of the Group. I am sure that were we all still together in the same place and could have talked things over, this would not have happened. The long distance and the difficulty of keeping in touch simply proved too much. Needless to add that I am very unhappy about these developments.

I have written to Weigel too, simply saying that I accept his proposal concerning the costs, but shall let him know about the fees after I have heard from you. I hope my arguments will make some sense to you and you will let me know what you think of them. Will you also keep me informed about the status of your own case and that of the others? This still interests me as much as ever, but our papers here are not likely to carry any news on this issue.

With affectionate greetings from both of us to both of you

Yours as ever