



Letter to Roger Revelle from Harald Sverdrup, May 1950

Dear Roger:

Thank you very much for your letter with enclosure. I shall return to the question of Sælen and today I wish to write you in another matter.

Gudrun and I spent the last week end at Lillehammer where there was a conference between the Fulbright scholars and members of the Fulbright Committee in Norway. The purpose of the conference was to obtain a review of the experiences of the Fulbrighters in order to learn how one could improve next years program. Present was also Dr. Krech from Berkeley who has spent the last year in Oslo teaching social psychology - whatever that is. In a post-session he was asked to give a review of the conflict at the University of California of which he presented a gloomy picture. He had quite recently had a letter from Tolman at Berkeley, who appeared very upset over the last development. According to Krech - or Tolman the solution of the conflict was:

1. No special oath would be required.
2. The words of the "oath" would be entered in the contract that had to signed by the staff members.
3. If a staff member refused to sign his contract, his case would be examined by the Committee on Tenure etc. which would report to the Regents for final action. This procedure would, however, apply only to associate Professors and Professors. If a staff member of rank Assistant Professor or lower refused to sign the contract his appointment would not be renewed.

In the opinion of Kerch the crisis was still acute. At Berkeley there would probably be 50 staff members who would refuse to sign on the basis that the Committee on Tenure etc. should not examine their loyalty since they had not been accused of any disloyalty. At UCLA there might be a similar number. If so, the University might fast lose its best men - and young men might not be attracted to a University at which they suddenly might find their future hampered by arbitrary demands by the Regents.

I am presenting these matters to you because after I had listened to Kerch I considered writing a letter to President Sproul - in my capacity of Director Emeritus of Scripps - in which I would express the hope that the conflict with the Faculty would be brought to a solution by which the University would not be in danger of losing valuable staff members or have difficulty in recruiting its staff - or something to that effect.

From your letter it appears, however, that the present solution - although not ideal - is such that the issue will disappear. If that is the case I shall not write Sproul, but in all events I would like to have your opinion as to the desirability of a letter from me at the present stage. Two months ago a letter might have been in place, but now it may be too late and may do no good.

Gudrun and Anna both feel better now because they have written Ellen. I dont feel quite so good because this letter is very impersonal, but I have to let it go by this today.

Best wishes from
Harald