

Harold H. Swift  
Union Stock Yards  
Chicago

OCT 7

1947

September 22, 1947.

Dear Ray:

This is not meant to be heresy, but I feel some information may make a better man of me. If you prefer to have Joe Willits answer, don't hesitate to refer the letter to him.

To my desk has just come the report entitled "Public Reaction to the Atomic Bomb and World Affairs" sent with the compliments of the Social Science Research Council sub-committee on Public Reactions to the Atomic Bomb and International Relations (Hadley Cantril, Pendleton Herring, Rensis Likert, and Leonard S. Cottrell, Jr., Chairman), issued by Cornell University and dated April, 1947.

I remember that the Foundation subscribed \$23,875. toward the project as did the Carnegie Corporation. I remember wondering when the Foundation voted the funds what the implications were of the study. Perhaps, now since the study has been made, a better question would be: Are there practical applications of the results which may help us in the future? I can see why a sociologist would like to know what this report purports to answer, but I am not very clear that the information will help him or anyone else.

It is interesting that the foreword starts out: "In recognition of the critical importance of more adequate knowledge of the thinking of the American public on matters relating to the development of the atomic bomb and its effect on attitudes on international relations, the Committee on Social Aspects of Atomic Energy of the Social Science Research Council proposed early in 1946 that a study of public opinion and attitudes in these areas be undertaken. . ." Perhaps still a better question is: What is the critical importance of this knowledge?

I am groping for help.

Fraternally yours,

Harold

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IHW	23 ?	his memo attached	Atomic bomb
RMA		RB7 10/6	