

2005

Cornell University
Atomic bomb

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October 6, 1947

Dear Harold:

I am just back from Mexico, and your letter of September 22 is on my desk. You ask about that report entitled "Public Reaction to the Atomic Bomb and World Affairs" which was sent out by the sub-committee on Public Reactions to the Atomic Bomb of the Social Science Research Council.

This proposal was first made by the committee under the chairmanship of Winfield Riefner of the Institute for Advanced Study. It involved a vast survey of the effect of atomic energy on public opinion, chiefly by means of polls, and would have cost approximately one million dollars. The \$23,875 was the vestigial remainder that we agreed to take to the Board.

Actually, some interesting results have occurred. An intelligent, interpretative column appeared in the New York Times concerning the findings. Collier's is, I believe, to issue an article of similar vein. The Princeton University Press has asked to get out a small monograph interpreting the significance of the findings.

I was very skeptical about this matter when it

October 6, 1947

first came up - I think we all were - and I am by no means sure that what has resulted is worth the money we put in. Joe Willits has perhaps a little more belief in it than I, but I don't think anyone here is terribly enthusiastic. I know that Joe would like to talk with you about this matter, and I assume that you two can get together at the meeting of the Trustees in Williamsburg.

With warm best wishes,

Faithfully yours,

RAYMOND B. FOSDICK

Mr. Harold H. Swift
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REF DEF