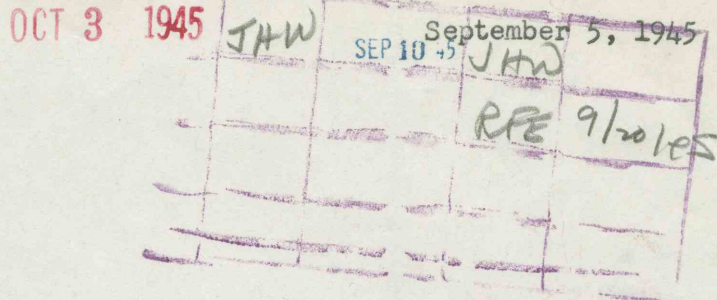


# The University of Chicago

The Division of the Social Sciences

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

2145  
Univ. of Chicago  
atomic Energy



Mr. Joseph H. Willits  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
49 West 49th Street  
New York 20, New York

Dear Mr. Willits:

On behalf of the University of Chicago, I make application to the Rockefeller Foundation for a grant of \$5,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary to meet the costs of a conference to be held from the 19th to the 22nd of September on the problems arising from the destructive application of atomic energy and other recent scientific discoveries.

In the words of the Smyth report, these problems "are not technical questions; they are political and social questions, and the answers given to them may affect all mankind for generations. . . . In a free country like ours such questions should be debated by the people and decisions must be made by the people through their representatives."

The conference is to bring together 25 to 30 physical scientists, social scientists, and other citizens. It will seek to clarify the issues which have arisen from these technological developments and to provide guidance for the formation of public policy. The discussions, which will be unattended by publicity, will (1) analyze the dangers created by the destructive potentialities of these weapons and (2) examine alternative institutional arrangements proposed for meeting this danger. There will be a pre-conference circulation of memoranda to enable the discussions to begin on as advanced a level as possible. These will cover, among others, such topics as schemes for national and international control of the study and use of atomic energy, the significance and possibilities of secrecy in scientific research and international relations, means of restricting the damage-potential of the bombs, etc. At the end of the conference, a statement of the conclusions reached and the supporting evidence and arguments will be drawn up for circulation and further discussion.

If you wish further information as to the agenda of the conference, as to people invited, or as to other related matters, I should be glad to provide it.

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Redfield

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