

~~C. J. L.~~

J. H. W.

P. E. M.

R. F. E.

3/20/50

APR 19 1951

The attached statement prepared by  
Penn Herring following a recent  
discussion (in connection with a  
current SS study of its policy respecting  
SSRC) is worth reading. Any  
comments will be welcome.

MAY 3 1951

R. C. D.

Well argued, but I assume that the first  
sentence - indeed the whole paper - refers to "ultimate American consumers",  
and services.  
Humanities is tapering support to ACLS on grounds that US activity is relatively  
well financed, and that other areas of the world need relatively more. RFB. 4/16/50

# Social Science Research Council

230 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

2005  
SSRC

Administrative budget

American Anthropological Association  
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CLYDE KLUCKHOHN, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

American Economic Association  
HAROLD A. INNIS, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
JOSEPH J. SPENGLER, DUKE UNIVERSITY  
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APR 1 9 1950

March 14, 1950

MAY 3 1950

Dr. Leland DeVinney  
The Social Sciences  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
49 West 49th Street  
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Lee

The enclosed memo attempts to spell out in some detail the functions of the Council, particularly in relation to the Foundation. I have tried to put in somewhat more orderly fashion some of the points that we discussed at the office here about two weeks ago.

Sincerely

*Pen*

Pendleton Herring

PHmr  
Encl.

Copy of  
memo filed  
2005  
SSRC  
Gen. pro.

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL  
AND FOUNDATION OPERATIONS

APR 6 1951

I. The Manpower for Foundation Objectives

Taking the broad policy objectives of the Rockefeller Foundation, the "ultimate consumers," so to speak, of philanthropic funds are the specialists on the faculties of our major universities. In the final analysis, there is really no other group competent to perform the requisite tasks and in a position to utilize the resources that our foundations have available. Specialists employed by industry or government cannot utilize foundation assistance to any significant degree. The record of philanthropic experience clearly sustains the fact that our educational institutions, with their specialists in many fields of knowledge, constitute the final and fundamental base for large-scale foundation operations.

There are, however, many intermediate stages and any variety of forms that foundation support may take.

1. A foundation may operate directly. This means putting specialists directly on the foundation payroll with all that is entailed in terms of policy commitments with respect to the interest and competence of the staff.
2. A foundation can create ad hoc commissions and committees with specialists either serving directly on these bodies or as staff assistants.
3. The foundation can make grants for broad purposes or special objectives to agencies such as the Federal Council of Churches, the Institute of Pacific Relations, the Foreign Policy Association, etc., etc. If surveys are to be made, books written, or policy proposals formulated, such organizations must recruit specialists

from our universities on an ad hoc basis to carry out the allotted assignment of the agency.

4. The foundation can make direct grants to our colleges and universities for general or specific purposes.

All of these alternatives have characteristic advantages and disadvantages. The essential problem is the choice of means to achieve the determined end.

## II. The Council as an Intermediary

The Social Science Research Council is an intermediary agency but so constituted that it can effectively work with both the foundation and the specialists upon whom the foundation must rely to achieve its purposes. The Council is organized as a private corporation. Council members constitute a board of directors. This board is made up of three representatives, each, from the national associations of anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics, plus nine members-at-large. The Council is the one organization broadly concerned with all the social science fields and competent to reflect in authoritative fashion the views of responsible research men.

Through the Council's numerous special committees, scores of social scientists in many disciplines and in colleges and universities over the country are engaged in cooperative efforts. The Council provides a system of communication for such specialists on problems of common concern. It was established more than twenty-five years ago to fulfil a sharply felt need for closer contact among social scientists and to provide an avenue for exchanging ideas and planning further work.



It is against this background that the Council operates, but constantly in the forefront of attention, and particularly through committee activities, is the quest for ways of advancing the frontiers of social science knowledge. What are the leads which, if pursued, will open up new facts and theories that will result in later applications of great social utility? Who are the individuals over the country who have come up with important new ideas? There is a process of seeking, reporting, and appraising constantly under way. The work of specialists can only be evaluated by their peers. No foundation could undertake such work without a large staff of specialists, and it would have to be a large staff indeed to encompass the great range of current research efforts. The appraising is best done in the republic of the scholars themselves.

Foundation officials have learned that proposals for grants will be made by someone on almost any subject in which the foundation is known or rumored to be interested. The real task, however, is to find those problems upon which something of significance can be done and the imaginative and responsible specialists who are prepared to carry through the project. It is here that the Council can undertake to obtain objective evaluations and considered advice concerning the leads which are most likely to result in genuine accomplishment.

Foundation boards hold a public trust. In the performance of their duties they need the advice of specialists who likewise have a deep sense of responsibility. What can be and what cannot be expected, in terms of the existing stage of scientific knowledge and professional competence, for solving practical problems or advancing research? With

such questions in mind, the Council can face the responsibilities of a "board of trustees" for social science advancement. Its members, as well as its committeemen, give their services because they all share this sense of common duty and purpose. Were a foundation to request equivalent time and thought of such men, it would feel under the necessity of compensating them for their services and this would mean the expenditure of many thousands of dollars. It is, of course, essential on occasion for foundations to employ consultants for special purposes, but it is doubtful whether it would be wise policy to place all relations between foundation officials and research men on such a basis. The sense of public trust engendered in our membership by the very nature of the organization and its responsibilities is an intangible asset of great value. The men of public affairs who serve on foundation boards get, through the Council, the best judgment of men of research affairs, given in the same spirit of public responsibility that motivates all trustees of integrity.

The Council's research planning activities are of especially substantial assistance to foundation operations. Research ideas must be organized as programs or projects that can then be passed upon by foundation officials in terms of both intrinsic merit and operational feasibility. Without an instrumentality for subjecting research ideas to close examination, and for developing ideas to the point at which they find expression in definite projects, foundation officials would be faced with the necessity of undertaking directly a great deal of planning and developmental work. From a foundation standpoint, this is hazardous because interest at the

initiating phase may be interpreted as a commitment for later foundation support. The mortality among incipient plans is high, and rightly so. There is a market place of ideas and the survival of the fittest should prevail.

The Council, since it is composed of a broadly representative group of social scientists, provides an organization to which research men in the various fields may turn for advice in formulating their own plans and in deciding whether or not their ideas have crystallized to the point that warrants active efforts to seek financial support. Thus, ill-considered proposals are often disposed of and ideas of promise are developed to the point that justifies consideration by foundations. To carry on such operations calls for a small central staff since the Council works for, and through, social scientists in their colleges and universities.

### III. Staff Functions

The Council has kept its own central staff at a minimum. At the present moment it consists of five professional members and an office force of a dozen people. From time to time a staff man may be added on a part-time basis, to assist a committee. The president of the Council and two professional assistants handle the multitude of matters involved in maintaining the necessary contacts with social scientists, foundations, and government officials concerned with current activities. There is a constant stream of visitors and negotiations of varying importance that must be handled. At the present time, for example, there are eighty distinct items of business, differing in scope and complexity, that call for varying



degrees of supervision. In terms of government contacts, for example, the president of the Council has official consultant relationships to five governmental agencies. He is also a member of the Program Committee of the United States National Commission for UNESCO. No one of these consultantships consumes more than a few days a year, but taken together they suggest the continuing demands of government upon social science research.

As an integral part of its other activities, the Council carries on a modest publication program. These publications are the product of Council committees. They all represent joint effort and, as such, could be produced in no other way than under auspices such as the Council offers. Our bulletin series is designed to open up new fields of inquiry and to appraise critically the accomplishment to date in selected areas. Such analyses are not intended for the general public but are designed, rather, to challenge the attention of forward-looking research men to pass informed and critical judgment on the more technical aspects of social science research. In order to keep research men over the country informed concerning our activities, Items, a news sheet, is issued quarterly.

In the Washington office of the Council, one staff man is in charge of administering the funds granted to the Council for several fellowship programs and the modest grants-in-aid program. Another staff member in the Washington office has been added this year in order to handle the increased burden of duties that the Council must discharge in helping to select men for study abroad under the Fulbright Program. As



a consultant to the State Department he assists with UNESCO business, and also acts as a staff man to three Council committees dealing with world area research and international matters.

#### IV. Breadth of Contacts

The extent to which participation in the Council's work spread out over the country is illustrated by the number of institutions represented by the members of Council committees in 1948-49. Committee members were drawn from thirty universities and eighteen colleges. Other committee members were connected with governmental agencies, industrial organizations, foundations, community agencies, and special research institutes, bringing the total number of educational or other organizations from which faculty or staff members collaborated in the Council's committee activities to eighty-seven. Hence, the planning and the communication of purposes and ideas which occurred within committees was automatically channeled to a constituency several times as large as the actual membership of the committees.

At the same time, funds entrusted to the Council were distributed over a comparably broad front. Sums, allocated under the critical eyes and in accordance with the best judgment of competent professional specialists, were paid to individuals in fifty-three different institutions. The number of individuals receiving fellowship stipends, grants-in-aid, or compensation for the preparation of special reports totaled one hundred and sixty-seven. (See appended lists "A" and "B", respectively, for organizations from which committee members were drawn and in which individuals received compensation from the Council in 1948-49.)

## V. Strengthening the Status of Research

There is a special case for encouragement of social science research efforts within the university. Student acclaim goes first to the great teacher, and institutional needs bring reward for service in academic administration. The social sciences rank very high in student attention; and social scientists, it would seem, because of their knowledge and interest in social processes are very frequently selected for administrative posts. Hence, the particular need for strengthening the social science research segment within the academic family. In schools of agriculture and commerce and in the natural science departments, outside pressures encourage research, albeit sometimes with too much emphasis upon application. The Social Science Research Council, not only through direct support, but more importantly by the specific recognition conveyed through committee memberships, invitations to conferences, and other forms of participation, greatly aids in strengthening the status of the research function within university departments of social science.

## VI. Research and Current Issues

At times the Council has served to focus thought and attention on issues of crucial public importance as, for example, in the cases of its Commission of Inquiry on Public Service Personnel or the Commission of Inquiry into National Policy in International Economic Relations. It played a major role in setting up the Central Statistical Board, now a function of the Bureau of the Budget. It contributed greatly to the

formative stages of social security policy. It can respond to immediate situations such as providing the only thorough and authoritative analysis of "why the polls went wrong." Within eight days after the last election, a Council committee on pre-election polls was at work and the chief polling agencies had opened their files to our staff. Within six weeks, the committee issued a report, and eight months later a volume of technical and statistical analysis of polling methods was published. This illustration emphasizes that social scientists, working through their own organization, can respond immediately when there is urgent need. In this situation the alternative was that each polling agency would have attempted to get small committees of their own, composed of university research men, with all the ensuing dangers of special pleading and conflicting expert testimony.

Given the resources, and convinced of the contribution that specialists are prepared to make on a given issue, the Council can mobilize the best knowledge on many important issues, but judgment in these instances should turn upon the thoughtful conviction of the specialists themselves that they have a highly relevant contribution to make.

## VII. Research Organization in a Democratic Society

The necessity for organizations such as the Social Science Research Council is rooted in the structure of American higher education. There is no ministry of education in the United States. Our scientific and intellectual life has not been dependent on the federal government. There is no official mouthpiece or a single line of policy. There are many policies and many choices, and this diversity is one expression of

freedom of thought and discussion. As such, it is part of the democratic tradition. Nevertheless, there are many problems that call for cooperative effort and, hence, as purely private undertakings the research councils and other educational associations of broad scope have come into being. If they languish through lack of private support, their functions in some form or another will be taken over by the government. Today, of course, there are actually various agencies that administer educational and research programs of governmental concern. There is a cooperative relationship between such federal agencies and the long-established private organizations, but with the balance of influence and prestige on the side of the private organizations. Officials turn to such organizations for advice and are ready, on occasion, to provide services. With the appearance of the National Science Foundation it would seem all the more desirable that private organizations dealing with parallel matters remain financially secure and independent in judgment. Otherwise, tendencies toward central, bureaucratic control may work to the disadvantage of education and research, where diversity, flexibility, and experimentation are vital. Foundation support of our research councils means that scientists and specialists in all fields of learning have their own organizations. They are not dependent upon officialdom for carrying on their own affairs or for advancing programs of research.



APPENDIX "A": Organizations from which SSRC Committee Members Were Drawn  
1948-49

Colleges and Universities

Amherst College  
Bennington College  
Bowdoin College  
Brooklyn College  
California, University of (Berkeley)  
California, University of (Los Angeles)  
Chicago, University of  
Colorado, University of  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Duke University  
Harvard University  
Indiana University  
Iowa, State University of  
Iowa State College  
Johns Hopkins University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan, University of  
Minnesota, University of  
Mississippi State College  
Missouri, University of  
Nebraska, University of  
New Hampshire, University of  
New Mexico, University of  
New York University  
North Carolina, University of  
North Carolina State College  
Northwestern University  
Oberlin College  
Ohio State University  
Oregon, University of  
Pennsylvania, University of  
Pomona College  
Princeton University  
Rutgers University  
San Diego State College  
Sarah Lawrence College  
Stanford University  
Toronto, University of  
Vanderbilt University  
Vassar College  
Washington, University of  
Washington, State College of  
Wellesley College  
Wesleyan University  
Williams College  
Wisconsin, University of  
Yale University

Government Agencies

Bureau of the Census  
Council of Economic Advisers  
Department of the Interior  
Department of State  
Housing and Home Finance Agency  
International Monetary Fund  
Library of Congress  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
  
California State Department of Industrial Relations

Other Organizations

American Council of Learned Societies  
American Council on Education  
American Institute of Public Opinion  
American Society for Testing Materials  
American Standards Association  
American Telephone and Telegraph Company  
Bell Telephone Laboratories  
Brookings Institution  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
Community Service Society  
Compton Advertising  
Crossley, Inc.  
Elmo Roper  
General Mills, Inc.  
Industrial Surveys  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Kraft Food Company  
Lever Bros. Co.  
Markle Foundation  
Marriage Council of Philadelphia  
National Opinion Research Center  
National Research Council  
New York Public Library  
Opinion Research Corporation  
Public Library Inquiry  
Rockefeller Foundation  
Russell Sage Foundation  
Social Science Research Council  
Twentieth Century Fund  
Urban Redevelopment Study, Chicago

APPENDIX "B": Institutions in Which Faculty Members or Graduate  
Students Have Received Funds from SSRC. 1948-49

American University  
Bard College  
Brooklyn College  
Brown University  
California, University of (Berkeley)  
California, University of (Los Angeles)  
California Institute of Technology  
Chicago, University of  
Colby College  
Colorado, University of  
Columbia University  
Cornell University  
Dropsie College  
Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes  
Florida State University  
Harvard University  
Hunter College  
Indiana University  
Industrial College of the Armed Forces  
Illinois, University of  
Johns Hopkins University  
Kentucky, University of  
Legislative Reference Service  
Louisiana State University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Michigan, University of  
Montana State University  
Morehouse College  
Mount Holyoke College  
New Mexico, University of  
New York, College of the City of  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
Occidental College  
Oglethorpe University  
Oklahoma A & M College  
Oxford University (England)  
Pennsylvania, University of  
Princeton University  
Rochester, University of  
Roosevelt College  
School of Advanced International Studies  
Stanford University  
Syracuse University  
Temple University  
Toronto, University of  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Union University

APPENDIX "B" - page 2.

Wayne University  
Western Reserve University  
Williams College  
Wisconsin, University of  
Yale University



TOTAL COUNCIL EXPENDITURES				I. GENERAL SUPPORT OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES			II. FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT-IN-AID PROGRAMS			III. SPECIAL PROJECTS AND AC- TIVITIES	
Year	Total	From RF, GEB, LSRM	% from RF	Total	From RF	%	Total	From RF	%		
1935-36	\$396,067	\$377,298	95	\$ 88,580	\$ 71,916 <sup>1</sup>	81	\$131,849	\$131,349 <sup>2</sup>	99+	\$175,638	
1936-37	491,937	472,930	96	97,628	79,326 <sup>1</sup>	81	138,630	136,887 <sup>2</sup>	99	255,679	
1937-38	429,621	405,400	94	103,191	82,024 <sup>1</sup>	79	126,836	123,122 <sup>2</sup>	97	199,625	
1938-39	341,934	315,096	92	94,960	70,840 <sup>1</sup>	74	87,183	84,465 <sup>2</sup>	97	159,791	
1939-40	301,397	276,740	92	100,612	79,662 <sup>1</sup>	79	93,757	90,424 <sup>2</sup>	96	107,028	
1940-41	303,221	273,054	90	101,033	76,296	76	95,859	92,731	97	106,329	
1941-42	277,384	243,907	88	96,838	72,598	75	67,048	64,066	96	113,498	
1942-43	212,055	183,588	87	79,768	57,978	73	55,590	54,321	98	76,697	
1943-44	195,095	173,152	89	96,977	75,982	78	43,814	43,814	100	54,346	
1944-45	185,044	156,731	85	86,041	66,343	77	45,315	44,700	99	53,688	
1945-46	292,960	219,411	75	104,288	73,234	70	118,832	118,373	99+	69,840	
1946-47	517,788	412,229	80	117,960	84,949	72	236,200	233,407	99	163,628	
1947-48	602,286	390,067	65	134,313	95,345	71	205,129	192,412	94	262,844	
1948-49	569,452	347,032	61	133,714	93,714	71	227,831	142,482	63	207,907	

1 Including funds for General Administration from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial.

2 Including fellowship funds from the General Education Board.

## III. DETAILS CONCERNING SPECIAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Perc. from R.F. funds</u>	<u>Pub.Admin.,</u>	<u>Econ.</u>	<u>Public</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>		<u>Council Planning</u>		
			<u>Soc.Secur.</u>	<u>Hist.</u>	<u>Libr.</u>	<u>Projects*</u>		<u>Projects*</u>		
			<u>(all R.F.)</u>	<u>(all R.F.)</u>	<u>(c.c.)</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>R.F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Financed by R.F.</u>	<u>% R.F.</u>
1935-36	\$175,638	99	\$118,011	—	—	\$22,594	\$22,488	\$33,033	\$33,033	100
1936-37	255,679	100	214,449	—	—	—	—	41,230	41,230	100
1937-38	199,625	100	181,260	—	—	—	—	18,365	18,365	100
1938-39	159,791	100	145,493	—	—	—	—	14,298	14,298	100
1939-40	107,028	99	106,654	—	—	374	—	—	—	—
1940-41	106,329	99	99,019	\$ 1,850	—	2,302	—	3,158	3,158	100
1941-42	113,498	95	75,964	26,400	—	6,255	—	4,879	4,879	100
1942-43	76,697	93	31,341	30,396	—	5,408	—	9,551	9,551	100
1943-44	54,346	98	27,931	19,985	—	1,000	—	5,430	5,430	100
1944-45	53,688	85	15,882	13,824	—	—	—	23,982	15,982	67
1945-46	69,840	79	162	12,625	—	37,079	3,691	19,974	11,326	57
1946-47	163,628	53	189	18,604	\$10,635	98,717	60,425	35,483	14,655	41
1947-48	262,844	38	<u>cr</u> 42	30,598	118,756	63,799	28,530	49,733	43,224	87
1948-49	207,907	51	—	38,465	62,250	43,227	37,483	63,966	34,888	55

\* Details regarding items included under these headings are given on the following sheet.

List of Projects and Activities Included on Preceding Table  
under "Miscellaneous Projects" and "Council Planning Projects"

Miscellaneous Projects

- 1935-36: Final expenditures from RF funds on Social Science Abstracts and for the Study of Population Redistribution; balance consists of small CC and Falk Foundation projects.
- 1939-40 through 1943-44: CC-financed Study of Foster Children and, in 1942-43, small CC grant for a manuscript on small business in Germany.
- 1945-46: RF-financed Sampling Study and Books for European Libraries projects; balance consists of expenditures on preparation of The American Soldier.
- 1946-47: RF funds for same projects as in 1945-46; balance in connection with The American Soldier.
- 1947-48: RF funds for Sampling Study, Books for European Libraries, and Social Science Periodicals for European Libraries; balance consists of C.C. grant for conference on world areas and expenditures concerning The American Soldier.
- 1948-49: RF funds for same purposes as in 1947-48 and also for work on value problems and social science research and for purchase of materials for the National Diet Library; balance consists of CC funds in connection with completion and publication of The American Soldier.

Council Planning Projects

- 1935-36 through 1940-41: Consists exclusively of RF General Projects Fund. Expenditures from this fund are also included in each of the subsequent years.
- 1941-42 through 1943-44: RF grant regarding the wartime utilization of social science personnel (special staff in Washington), and General Projects Fund.
- 1944-45: Same as in preceding year from RF funds; balance consists of Upjohn fund grant to the Council.
- 1945-46: RF General Projects Fund, plus Upjohn grant, plus CC funds for use of Council's atomic energy committee.
- 1946-47: RF grant for study of techniques for reducing group hostility and G.P. Fund; Upjohn grant; CC funds for work on atomic energy and for study of recruitment, etc., of social science personnel.
- 1947-48: same RF funds as in preceding year, plus fund for housing research; same CC grants as in preceding year; Upjohn and Grant Foundation funds.
- 1948-49: RF funds for General Projects, Housing Research, Pre-election Polls, and Atomic Energy; CC funds for Pre-election Polls project and Political Behavior Conference; balance from Upjohn and Grant foundations and from American Philosophical Society.