

20 Forest Street
Cambridge 40, Mass.
November 4, 1945

Dr. Raymond B. Fosdick
Rockefeller Foundation
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Fosdick:

While listening to your radio talk this afternoon during the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra Program, it occurred to me that you might be interested in knowing of my plans for study of the social implications of science.

In the electrical engineering work which I have done since graduating from the University of California in 1941, I have gradually become more concerned over the social implications of science. To me there appears to be a relationship between basic discoveries in Physics, equipment designed by Electrical Engineers in which the principles discovered in Physics are used, and the effect upon society due to the availability of the new equipment. Perhaps we would be better prepared to utilize new scientific discoveries for peaceful purposes instead of military purposes, if more were known about the relationship between the Natural Sciences, Engineering Sciences, and the Social Sciences.

In an attempt to increase our knowledge of how to bring together information on physical laws discovered by the natural scientists and information on moral (or ethical) laws discovered by religious leaders, philosophers, and social scientists to assist the people of the world through democratic processes to use our knowledge for the advancement of civilization, rather than the destruction of civilization, I am planning a research program in Social Engineering.

This proposed research program in Social Engineering through Electrical Engineering and Sociology is composed of three parts as follows:

Part A: Analysis of a specific invention for investigation of the relationships between Physics, Electrical Engineering, and Sociology.

Part B: Development of an outline of the principles of Social Engineering.

Part C: Experimental use of the principles of Social Engineering in the solution of local community problems.

I have prepared a more detailed outline, but do not have any extra copies at present. If you should be interested in further details, I could send you a copy when I prepare the next revised outline after my present discussions of this research program with interested members of the faculty at Harvard, M. I. T., and University of California.

My tentative plans call for starting this re^search program at the University of California in the spring semester of 1946.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick B. Wood