

20 Forest Street
Cambridge 40, Mass.
December 9, 1945

Professor P. A. Sorokin
Sociology Department
Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Professor Sorokin:

The enclosed material may be of interest to you, because it indicates what some organizations are doing in an attempt to understand the problems of our civilization and to take appropriate action.

1. The American Association of Scientific Workers has tried to pay attention to the social consequences of the discoveries of the scientists. Some of the recent activities of the Boston-Cambridge Branch are illustrated by the following enclosures.

Encls a statement released by the AAScW on December 5, 1945, after a discussion of the atomic bomb situation.

A-2 "Proposal for the Formulation of a Study Group to Investigate the Social Functions of Science" was circulated to members on December 3, 1945.

A-3 is a proposal by which each member of the AAScW would keep track of the activities of some other organization or follow a particular publication for reporting to the AAScW on what other people are doing about the application of science to human welfare.

A-4 is a summary of the activities of the Boston-Cambridge Branch during the last two months.

2. The Association of Cambridge Scientists is a new organization composed principally of scientists on government research projects, who became seriously concerned over the dangerous policies being followed by the Truman Administration in the control of atomic energy. Although many of these scientists were at first concerned primarily with their own future freedom and safety, they are developing a sense of responsibility for the public welfare. The national organization representing this type of scientific organization and those at Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, etc., at first planned to be exclusively "atomic scientists", but has now changed to be a more general organization.

B-1 is the first press release of the ACS on "International Control of Atomic Energy."

B-2 is another press release from the ACS.

B-3 is a statement of a plan for "Correspondence with Foreign Scientists" circulated to members of the ACS December 1, 1945.

3. The Society for Religious Culture is an organization which has plans for conducting research projects with a view to "basing religion upon sound philosophical and scientific findings and articulating it with constructive forces at work in society." I do not have any of their publications available, but you could obtain information from their national secretary: Mr. George Yelsley Rusk, 110 Elawood Road, Baltimore 10, Md.

4. Dr. Horace Westwood, minister of the Unitarian Church of Charleston, South Carolina, has been doing some thinking about the religion of the future. He has an article in the Christian Register, Dec. '45, pp.452-453, "In The Domain Of Nature." Two quotations from his article are as follows:

"Despite the turmoil and upheaval of these past three decades, the evidence seems to indicate that, instead of confronting a period of spiritual decline in which the religious life of the race will sink to its lowest ebb, humanity faces an era in which the human soul will reach greater heights than ever before. The Age of Faith belongs to the future rather than the past; we stand upon the threshold of its dawn."

"As we contemplate the dawning Age of Faith we herald that revolution in religious thought and experience consequent upon the discovery of natural law in the spiritual world. It shifts the basis of authority from the sphere of private opinion and theological speculation to the realm of demonstrated principle and discovered law."

Perhaps you have already seen some of this information in newspapers or periodicals. However I thought I would send you this information in case you had not come across it.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick B. Wood