

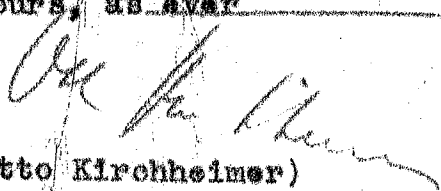
October 29, 1961

Professor Howard White, Acting Dean  
Graduate Faculty  
New School for Social Research  
66 West 12 Street  
New York, 11, N.Y.

Dear Howard:

Owing to my acceptance of the Columbia  
appointment I regretfully tender herewith my resignation  
as professor of political science in the Graduate Faculty  
as of September 1, 1962.

Yours, as ever

  
(Otto Kirchheimer)

March 29, 1962

Professor Howard B. White  
Acting Dean, Graduate Faculty  
of Political and Social Science  
New School for Social Research  
66 West 12th Street  
New York 11, N.Y.

Dear Professor White,

In my previous letter I promised you a definite answer to your offer within, at the most, ten days. I have been carefully weighing the various aspects, the pros and cons, and examining my own personal and academic preferences and I am sorry to have to tell you that I came to the conclusion that I can't accept your offer at the present time.

You have been patient and forbearing in first being willing to wait till next year for me to start teaching at your institution and giving me time to make up my mind, so that you are entitled to a brief explanation of my decision. Foremost, I suppose, is the fact I am simply not ready to tie myself down a year and a half in advance, when my feelings and the prospects which exist for me on this as well as the other side of the Atlantic have not been properly sorted out. Secondly, I believe that by experience and preference I would be better equipped to teach at a liberal arts college where my contacts would be predominantly with undergraduates, than to take on graduate instruction at a big city institution. And thirdly I am rather reluctant to locate myself once again in New York City where the frictions of megalopolis and other aspects of the city (such as climate) rather appal me and my wife. It is quite possible that half a year from now these factors would weigh more lightly with me than they do at present. But your understandable need to have a definite answer from me at this time forces me to cast the complex balance now. I have felt honored by your offer - extended to me as a person known to you only by recommendation and my writings; and it has caused me a great deal of anguish to reach the decision which I am communicating to you. I hope that I have not inconvenienced you unduly and that you will accept my answer with sympathetic understanding.

Very sincerely yours,

Kurt L. Shell

June 24, 1962.

Dean Howard White  
New School, Graduate Faculty  
66 West 12 Street  
New York, 11, N.Y.

Dear Howard:

This is in regard to your query about Professor Fred Burin. I have known Fred Burin since 1954 and I have been in professional and social contact with him frequently since then. I have studied his PhD dissertation on the Rule of Law in Germany thoroughly as I am using it for my own work. It is a highly intelligent and very subtle job, splendidly done and I only regret that he never took any initiative to have it published.

While he has written little, the article which he prepared specially for Merton's "Reader on Bureaucracy" is in all its succinctness an equally brilliant job. He has an excellent, critical and analytical mind and a wide background, not only in law and politics but in the entire social science field. While I have no personal experience with his teaching both colleagues of his at Columbia College and at American University have assured me any number of times that he is a first rate and very conscientious teacher. I am sure you will find him an asset to the School.

Very sincerely yours,