

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

EMERSON HALL
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

April 6, 1964

Professor Reinhard Bendix
Department of Sociology
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Reinhard:

I did not immediately answer your telegram because within a day or two Charles Ackerman accepted an offer to go to Cornell. He knew about the possibility at Berkeley and made his decision quite deliberately in the light of that. Therefore, it did not seem necessary to enter into an evaluation. He is certainly a very able young man, and I expect him to have an important future.

I shall look forward to seeing you in Heidelberg which approaches rapidly. I have, within the last few days, read the papers of both Aron and Marcuse; and I must say that I am somewhat disappointed, particularly in Aron. It seems to me that he might have put his treatment of Weber in a broader context than simply that of his place in relation to the problem of his own time. Weber was certainly one of the most important theorists of political power and there is much of his contribution Aron simply does not touch. Of course, I rather expected the general line that is taken by Marcuse which seems to me only one aspect of Weber's very complex attitude system. In general, I am afraid I will be something of a Daniel in the Lion's den in my much more positive note about both Weber's own contribution and the nature of industrial society. At any rate we will hope that there will be some good discussions. I'll look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,



Talcott Parsons

TP:vb

April 9, 1964

Professor Talcott Parsons
Department of Social Relations
Emerson Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts--02138

Dear Talcott:

In the meantime I heard from Ackerman that he was going to Cornell.

What you write concerning the forthcoming meetings in Heidelberg is, I fear, only part of it. I have the distinct impression that the occasion of the centenary is being used by all and sundry to make Weber a whipping-boy of the unresolved intellectual legacies of Germany for the last half century. If you consider that Marcuse sounds not only like Lukacz but also like Leo Strauss and Eric Voegelin and Wolfgang Mommsen - and Christoph Steding (I shall check this last before I leave, he was a Nazi philosopher in the thirties), you begin to wonder. I shall make a reference to this, but then I am only a discussant. I have not seen Aron's paper, but from your description one might infer that he is aware of this unholy alliance and seeks to provide a corrective by deliberately emphasizing Weber's contemporary setting. That is a possible construction anyway, since he is a sensitive political observer.

We shall see. It is some irony, is it not, that the Americans (including this assimilated American) come to Weber's defense on this occasion, while the unreconstructed Germans from both sides of the Atlantic are fighting the old battles. That might be worth another comment.

I doubt that the discussions will be worthwhile under these circumstances, but they will be interesting - sociologically!

Many thanks for your note. See you in Heidelberg.

Sincerely,

Reinhard Bendix
Professor of Sociology

RB:amw

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

William James Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

February 15, 1966

Professor Reinhard Bendix
Department of Sociology
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Reinhard:

The enclosed material about the proposed series on sociology for the Voice of America Forum will, I think, explain the main problem that I am approaching you on. I wanted, however, to add a personal note to say how much I hope that you will be willing to undertake lecture number 10 on "Modern Societies". What I would hope for here is the comparative structural approach which I know is so congenial you and within which so much of your own work has fallen. We can give you until April 1st as a deadline and I very sincerely hope you will be able to undertake it. The recording can be done locally in Berkeley. It will not occasion any travel on your part.

Cordially,



Talcott Parsons

TP:kt

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

William James Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

February 15, 1966

Modern (modern)

diversity of modern

Dear Reinhard:

You are probably familiar with the Voice of America's Forum program, which broadcasts series of half-hour talks on a variety of topical areas, by outstanding American specialists in the fields to some 80 foreign countries. Some of these series have been centered on academic disciplines - there have already been series on political science, anthropology, and economics, for example, but there have also been series on such topics as Music in the United States, Mass Communication and American Education. In addition to the broadcast, each talk is published in pamphlet form and widely distributed, and it is planned that the series will be collected in book form, as a number already have been.

I have agreed to serve as coordinator of a new series of between 25 and 30 half-hour lectures on Sociology as a discipline, with special reference to its development in the United States. I am sending you herewith a tentative list of topics for the particular lectures. Both the list itself and the order in which they are to be presented are still decidedly tentative, and suggestions for its revision will be welcome.

In this tentative spirit I should like to ask whether you would be willing to undertake the lecture ¹⁰ on the topic of Modern Societies. You will be expected to prepare by April 1st, 1966 a manuscript of 15-16 double-spaced type-written pages. After the usual editorial processing, in which all changes will be submitted to the author for approval, you will be asked to make arrangements through the Washington office of Forum for recording for broadcasting purposes. For this service, I am authorized to offer an honorarium of \$250.

Please, within the broad framework of the outline, consider yourself as free as possible to define and treat the topic suggested in the way which is most congenial to you. You can appreciate that we wish to present in the series as a whole a reasonably full coverage of the principal interests of sociology, but within these limits we would like every author to discuss a topic in which he has a special interest, in his own way. If the topic I suggest to you is not congenial, but another in the outline is more so, I am open to the suggestion of a change. I have deliberately not included suggested names in the outline enclosed, because I cannot await canvassing of all possible choices by all potential authors. If, however, another topic is more congenial and it has not been accepted by another author when I hear from you, I would be glad to consider the shift. The same goes for willingness to write and talk on topics not included in the outline, but clearly important in American sociology today. You will appreciate that limitations

of space have made it impossible to include all possibly significant subtopics, and that the new ones can only be considered subject to such exigencies. However, please feel free to discuss these matters by letter or by phone (you may call me collect: Area Code 617, UN 8-7600, Ext. 3817). There is some urgency in getting this settled as soon as possible, so I hope to hear from you soon.

I very much hope that you will be willing to contribute to this important series. It is my impression that this is one of the highest level - intellectually speaking - of American Government enterprises, and one which is most fully aloof from controversial political issues of the immediate situation, in short, one congenial to most academic people.

Sincerely,

Talcott Parsons

Talcott Parsons

1 enc.

February 18, 1966

Professor Talcott Parsons
Department of Social Relations
Harvard University
William James Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Professor Parsons:

Thank you for your letter of February 15. My inclination is to try my hand at this although the deadline makes me a bit uneasy. I shall attempt to deal with several contrasts between tradition and modernity and then briefly speak of the diversity of modern societies. I hope this comes close enough to what you had in mind. I shall try my hand at it since it sounds like a worthwhile enterprise.

With best regards,

Cordially yours

Reinhard Bendix
Professor

RB:CRM

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

William James Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

March 2, 1966

Professor Reinhard Bendix
Department of Sociology
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Reinhard:

Thanks for your note. I am indeed delighted to hear that you are willing to undertake the piece for the Voice of America Series and will look forward to receiving your manuscript in due course.

Cordially,



Talcott Parsons

TP:kt

March 22, 1966

Professor Talcott Parsons
Department of Social Relations
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Talcott:

Here is my text for the talk in the Voice of America Series. I take it someone will edit to make it read a little more smoothly. Presumably I will hear from you when I receive the edited manuscript concerning my next steps.

For the moment, I have only one additional question. Will the text be printed by the Voice of America? And if so, will it be possible to order reprints? The Institute of Industrial Relations, of which I am a member, has a large community education program, and a talk like this might serve some of their purposes.

With best regards,

Cordially yours,

Reinhard Bendix

RB/bp

Enclosure

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

*William James Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138*

April 12, 1966

Professor Reinhard Bendix
Department of Sociology
University of California
Berkeley, California

Dear Reinhard:

Just a note to say that I have read your piece for the Voice of America Forum Series and find it admirable. I certainly do not think that any serious editing is needed at this stage, so I am sending it on to the people in Washington. You will be hearing further from them. Thanks very much for doing it so promptly and so well.

Cordially,



Talcott Parsons

TP:kt

July 22, 1966

Dear Reinhard,

As you know it is expected that the Voice of America Forum Series will be published in book form. It is up to the coordinator of the series to make the specific arrangements and on the basis of this I have been in negotiation with Basic Books. The publisher will pay normal royalties but since 24 people are involved, the shares accruing to each would be small. It is suggested that it would be a nice gesture to assign royalties to the American Sociological Association. This I understand has been done in the case of other series.

A particular problem of conscience arises for your coordinator. Dr. Werthine of VOA has told me that in a number of other cases the coordinator has taken 25 per cent of the royalties, since the editing of the volume is his responsibility and that in several cases the remaining 75 per cent has been assigned to the relevant association. My problem of conscience is whether to follow the precedent or to join the rest of you in donating the editor's share also to the Association. I should be receptive to suggestions.

Furthermore if the majority of persons object to assignment of their shares to the American Sociological Association I should of course respect this judgement and arrange a contract which would provide for individual royalties. I am afraid that the issue must be decided by majority vote and that if only a minority of individuals request royalties their request cannot be granted.

Cordially,


Talcott Parsons

TP/dlh

Professor Rinehart Bendix
University of California
Department of Sociology
Berkeley, California 94704

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RELATIONS

William James Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

August 16, 1966

Professor Reinhard Bendix
Department of Sociology
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Reinhard:

Just a note to tell you that the overwhelming majority of the participants in the Voice of America program have approved the suggestion of putting the bulk of the royalties at the disposal of the ASA. I have therefore signed the contract but with 80% rather than 75% going to the Association. I have written Robin Williams in his capacity as chairman of the Committee on Publications making the offer and have passed on to him your suggestion that a special use for the money be worked out and that another Association prize might be an appropriate one.

Cordially,



Talcott Parsons

TP:kt

January 27, 1967

To: Contributors to Voice of America Series

Re: Revised manuscripts

Deadline: February 15, 1967

Dear

Reinhard

Your contribution to the VOA Forum Series has been greatly appreciated. As you know the broadcasting has been going on through the Fall and Winter and Ted Wertime informs me that reactions have been very favorable.

Wertime would like to have the manuscripts ready for submission to Basic Books as soon as possible. Many of you I know will be willing to let your manuscript stand but if you revise it please get the copy in as soon as possible. A revised version must be in my hands by February 15 if it is to be included. Incidentally, space limits for the broadcast will not apply to printed version.

Sincerely,

Talcott Parsons
Talcott Parsons