

INSTITUT FÜR POLITISCHE WISSENSCHAFT E.V.  
AN DER FREIEN UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

Gründer: Freie Universität Berlin / Deutsche Hochschule für Politik

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GELFERTSTRASSE 11  
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February 24, 1962

Professor Otto Kirchheimer  
Department of Public Law and Government  
Columbia University  
New York 27, N.Y.

Dear Otto,

I hope you forgive me this delay in answering your letter. Before I could do so I had to talk to Stammer again about the compromise you suggested - and you know how long it takes to get hold of him - and, furthermore, I had written a longish letter to Padover explaining my decision and felt that it might be better for me to wait for his reaction before undertaking any further steps on my part. I am sorry if my decision, after all, was again negative, but in the first place I still feel - and Stammer emphatically insisted on the same point - that my first obligation is to finish the project which I started (and on behalf of which people and money here were mobilized and committed) which cannot be done before summer '63 - if then - and which will take all my energy until then. Besides (and I thought and talked a lot about it), the possibility of going back for the spring semester and returning again in summer involved; on closer inspection, so many technical problems that it would have distracted me way beyond the mere time involved in the change. So I came to the conclusion that I have to stick to my first reaction - that I would be greatly interested in the offer if it were made for the fall of '63, but couldn't accept it any earlier. Throughout all this I have felt most appreciative of your efforts on my behalf; as well as very honored and flattered that I should be chosen to be Kirchheimer's successor at the New School. I am simply stating a fact; I do not wish to flatter you. As far as my future prospects over here are concerned, I must admit to strong ambivalence in my feelings. It would very much depend on the kind of position I am offered (if any) and on the location before I could make a decision. But even if nothing very tempting should turn up by the end of this year (I could hardly wait longer) I believe that I should be able to find a fairly satisfactory job back in the US; and I would not consider going back to Harpur the worst alternative.

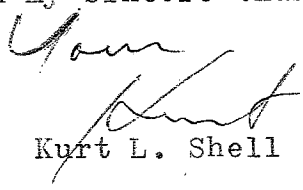
I was very pleased by your kind comments on my book. Did you read the original thesis or the somewhat shortened version which has now appeared? I would be interested in your elaboration of the remark that you do not agree with my historical introduction. I wonder whether, in reading further into it, you will find other sections with which you will also disagree. As you may know, Franz Neumann died just at the time of my completion of the dissertation and I never had the benefit of a really careful and astringent criticism such as he would have given me. Perhaps

you could now supply me with some of it, if your time permits. As I myself feel far from enthusiastic about the book - it is now almost ten years since I did the research for it and I have gained new perspectives which make me see the shallows and lacunae rather clearly - I am encouraged by your comments into believing that it may have merits which I had become blind to by repeated critical self-exposure.

By the way, the other day I discussed a possibility which might serve both the New School and me, though it could not be more than a "Notloesung". How would you feel about asking Hirsch-Weber to stand in for the comparative slot for one year; which would make it possible for me to take it on in '63 or for the New School to look around at leisure. It isn't certain that HiWe could get away from the Institute for that long, but he seemed very attracted by the idea and it might be worth keeping in mind.

I am very pleased that Fred is so much enjoying his return to the fields of academe. Just goes to show that there are degrees in "relative evil"; and I am grateful for him to have warned me off the State Department as a career line. I am looking forward to seeing him during the summer at his chalet in Adelboden. Sounds grand, doesn't it? I am sorry I missed you on your visit to Germany last summer. Are you planning to come again this year? In that case I shall make a point of being around when you visit Berlin.

You may think my attitude naive or shortsighted in turning down so good an opportunity. I am sorry, but that is the way I am, but I do want you to know - excuse me repeating myself - that I am most grateful to you for thinking of me in this connection. With my sincere thanks and very best greetings,

  
Kurt L. Shell

March 7, 1962

Dear KS,

Thanks very much for your exhaustive letter of Feb. 24. Unfortunately, I got it only today since I come only once a week to Columbia this term. Please address letters to my home address if they are destined for me personally (2801 Beechbank Rd. Silver Spring, Md) otherwise Grad. Fac. New School 66 West 12 Str. N.Y. 11.N.Y.

Fortunately, I have meanwhile convinced my colleagues that they should wait a full year, as you are the best available candidate. The department will now go through the pinnacole of suggesting your name to the budget committee and the full faculty for an appointment as of September 1963. There is great likelihood that this recommendation will be accepted and that you will get an official letter or telegram in about two weeks. You must however be clear about one thing. My colleagues are horrified at the idea that they will have nobody on hand and they would therefore not be willing to put the whole thing off for three or four months or even longer. While they are now perfectly willing to delay the beginning date, to suit your needs till autumn 63, they would require you to sign a binding contract now for the 1963 date. While the salary which they will probably offer you in the neighborhood of \$ 9,000 is in my opinion open to some leeway; -you might get \$ 500 more or, if there are difficulties about the salary range of other associate professors, I think it likely that the president would be willing to make other adjustments (Ueberfahrtskosten, Uebersiedlungsbeitrag) which practically amount to the same thing - the requirement that you make up your mind now is not likely to be waived. As you now have probably about three weeks until you will have to answer an official communication from these gentlemen I would appreciate if you could make up your mind on this important point: whether you want to sign a contract now for October 1963. Needless to say I would feel very gratified for the sake of the school if you could see your way to accept.

As to the provisional arrangements for 62-63 the suggestion re Hirsch Weber is excellent and I would only be too glad if I could get my colleagues to act upon it. Whether I shall be able is however doubtful for the following reasons: while it was unclear whether they would get you or see their way to wait the whole year the acting dean Howard White has turned to his father confessor Strauss Chicago who tries to anhaengen him a young man who supposedly could teach both political philosophy and comparative government, name of Romoser. While I have been able to get him off that track with some hard labor now, when I could show him that there is a good chance that you will accept for 1963, he will probably want to hire him for 62 and if that for one reason should not materialize he will probably try to make a new appointment for a man who would teach constitutional law and public administration ( I taught constitutional law and public administration was handled by an outside adjunct professor) you would not be supposed to teach constitutional law but rather a political theory course in addition to comparative government. This is the reason why I do not feel too confident that I would be able to make them see the light in re Hirsch Weber; needless to say, I shall

try nevertheless; please explain the situation in detail to Hirsch Weber and tell him how gratified I would be if I can achieve this goal. Though, given the constellation as I described it to you, my hopes are faint.

I have not read your whole book but only ca 80 or 90 pages of the proof which we were able to get from the publisher and with the help of which I managed to convince my colleagues that you are the right man. Therefore do not have a complete judgment and will have to go through the whole book whenever you are able to make it available to me. On these 90 pages which I read in great rush, I made some notes, which I only hope I can find again. I do not know yet whether I shall be in Germany this summer, but there is a chance. In this case I should love to see you. I would be all too happy if you could see your way to accept the New School job for 1963. Please let me hear from you, even apart from the official communication if and when the official offer is made, by either the Dean or the chairman.

Cordially yours,

the Columbia job, while involving the same amount of hours as the Columbia job (6) is much less work, I would think about 60% of what the Columbia job entails; from the viewpoint of work load I surely regret to have abandoned the New School.

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*for the year*

April 7, 1962

Dear KS

Thanks for your letter. I understand your feelings and motivations perfectly especially your feelings about living in New York. I never moved there myself. You do make a mistake i stake in one point: the Graduate Faculty faellt aus dem Rahm en and probab ly comes closer too the pedagogical function you have in mind. However that is now past history and whether the job will be available later on is dubious and I shal l have no influence on it any more.

I hope you did the right thing. If so, I am glad for you but sorry for the school.

Be nice enoughto let me have a copy when our book comes out. Make your publisher send it to my home adress 2801 Beechbank Rd. Silver Spring, Md. I am looking forward to studying it in detail. Perhaps <sup>we</sup> can see you this summer; it is likely that I shall be in Europe.

With kind regards -

July 5, 1964

Herrn Professor Dr. Otto Antrück  
Universitaet Giessen

Sehr verehrter Herr Kollege:

Ich bestätige höflichst den Erhalt Ihrer Anfrage im Bezug auf Professor Shell. Ich kenne Herrn Shell seit etwa 8 Jahren. Ich bin mit ihm des Öfteren sowohl in Europa wie auch in den Vereinigten Staaten zusammen getroffen. Ich habe wohl alle seiner gedruckt vorliegenden Arbeiten, sei es in deutsch oder in englisch, studiert. Eine davon, sein Buch über den Österreichischen Nachkriegssozialismus habe ich vor ca 2 Jahren in der Political Science Quarterly besprochen.

Herr Shell ist ein hervorragends befähigter Politikwissenschaftler. Seine Arbeiten über England Österreich sowie über die Berliner Wahlen weisen ihn als einen Forscher aus der sowohl Tatsachenmaterial gut und zuverlässig verarbeiten wie auch interessant und tiefgründig interpretieren kann. Seine besonderen Bemühungen haben der Erforschung der politischen und Sozialstruktur der modernen westlichen Demokratie gegolten und alles was er darüber zu sagen hat verdient Beachtung.

Allgemein bezeichnet man ihn als einen erstklassigen Lehrer der bei seinen Studenten Enthusiasmus und tiefen Eindruck hinterläßt. Aus diesem Grund würde er für einen Lehrstuhl für politische Bildung besonders günstige Voraussetzungen mitbringen. Ich glaube auch daß Professor Shell die persönlichen Voraussetzungen mit sich bringt die ihn zu einem angenehmen und zuverlässigen Kollegen machen würden. Ich habe nie etwas Nachteiliges über ihn von den amerikanischen Kollegen die mit ihm zusammen gearbeitet haben gehört und ich bin sicher daß daselbe auch für seine Berliner Kollegen gilt. Die Universität Giessen würde an Herrn Professor Shell eine erstklassige Lehrkraft gewinnen.

Mit dem Ausdruck meiner vorzüglichen Hochachtung, bin ich,

Ihr sehr ergebener

Otto Kirchheimer

die meisten

mit auch Lachen

~~Publikum M  
Analyse politischer  
Lohnzahl 25 Jahre  
Ziel~~

~~Umfassung politischer Analyse  
mit 25 Jahre ungenau  
Ziel~~

~~Analyse  
Lohnzahl politischer Lohnzahl  
aus 25 Jahren~~

~~beruflichen des  
bedeutend~~

~~Analyse politischer Lohnzahl  
aus 25 Jahren~~

bei

Es geht um Berufsmitte  
des <sup>qualitativen</sup> Lohnzahl

Zeitgenosse ist ein  
Berufsmittel Person der Zeit  
Jahre nach dem pol. Lohnzahl  
beruflich  
die gewerblichen politischen Analyse  
des

~~in 20 Jahren  
Verdient Lohnzahl und pol. Lohnzahl  
beruflich, hat ein etabliertes Betriebsmittel  
Berufsmittel  
schlechten Verdienst~~

bei  
hat ein etabliertes Betriebsmittel  
beruflich