

Bennington College . Bennington . Vermont

February 3, 1941.

Dear Robert:

I have written Appleby saying that I would like to know what the Department has in mind, but I suspect the whole thing has blown over. After seeing you I reconstructed my conversation with Appleby as I was leaving, and the implications were that the reorganization contemplated had met opposition, that the neat plan of achieving unity by adding another man so that everyone could do less and take in more would complicate as much as simplify.

I have seen almost everyone in the division and all are entirely agreeable to the idea of having Palanyi attached to the college on a no-pay basis, his support to be provided by a foundation. He is now eagerly agitated by word that the Home Office is trying to facilitate the departure of his wife and daughter and if they should come over I suppose he would work out another plan for 1941-42.

Mildred's suggestion about the McCamy's storing their furniture in Hall house I communicated and Julia replied to Jean without commenting on this point. We are gathering some more data on the house Greg and Toni had since Julia seemed interested.

Peter Jones is still in Albany but is beginning to gain. Mrs. Isaacs is in N. Y. and Beryl at the Newcombs so that the Joneses are momentarily on a pre-war basis and Lewis is showing no signs of the refugee complex which was developing by life among Englishwomen.

Jean joins me in best wishes.

Sincerely,

Tom Brockway

165 East 83rd Street  
New York, N. Y.  
February 8, 1941

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Mr. Thomas P. Brockway  
Bennington College  
Bennington, Vermont

Dear Tom,

I am rather relieved to hear that the Department of Agriculture position is not going to materialize, although I know it would be an interesting experience.

I have seen Dr. Polanyi recently and I have tried to help him in having his wife and daughter brought here. He is in a faculty suite, as you know, so that they can be accommodated this semester. He will probably find another place to live off campus for next year. I think there is a pretty good likelihood that he will get support provided by a foundation to maintain his family next year. I am talking with the man in charge of the Rockefeller Foundation next Monday and have already talked with Walter Stewart who is much interested in his thesis.

It looks now as if Hans Mueller, a German "refugee" who is taking Charles Smith's and Purves's place for the semester, will live in Hall House. I hope the McCamy's like the house occupied by Greg and Tony. It seems to me a pretty good one and in a good location.

I remember at a meeting of the House advisors you spoke of a complaint having been made by one of the students that her parents when they visited the campus were given little recognition, and that one parent spoke quite critically of having been asked for money and never having been greeted at Bennington by any official person. I wonder if you remember who the person was. It would keep us from making a mistake in approaching parents in one or two cases this year. Our policy in the President's office and the Information Office is not to insist that students bring their parents to see us but of course we always welcome the opportunity to meet them. The students at the College and, I suspect, most of the parents rather like the freedom of having the parents visit the campus without formalities. On the other hand I have found things like this happening more than once where a parent with a great deal of prestige due to cash has been used to a lot of attention from some private school head and has expected this attention to continue when her daughter came to College. We try to treat them all alike but in some cases it hurts the feelings of this sort of parent.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Leigh  
President

*EDB*

*Retyped on  
proper letterhead  
before mailed*