

Serial: 3023-

14 Apr '53

Dr. Stewart S. Cairns  
 Chairman, Department of Mathematics  
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 Urbana, Illinois

Dear Stewart:

This is in reply to your letters of 25 March and 7 April.

Concerning any restrictions on new Civil Service appointments under new hiring policies I can state that we are still in a position to hire students with mathematical training. However, we are somewhat curtailed by new regulations and I am restricting hiring to very special classes of people. I am primarily interested at the present time in people with a PhD degree who have a good background in analysis. For such people I have in mind work on mathematics of communication theory. Thus I would consider Doob's student Flannigan a prime prospect, and I have already written to him asking him if he would like to apply for a job. Incidentally I haven't heard from him yet.

I shall be available on Monday, April 20, when you are in Washington and am notifying Howie that you will be here. We are both looking forward to seeing you.

I have no objections to your mentioning me in requesting permission for Donald to terminate his work in school on June 26 as planned. I hope it will do some good but I have my doubts.

The scuttlebutt that you heard that Curtis has resigned is correct. However, it is not obvious that it was in protest over the Astin case. Curtis has not said it was and it is fairly well known that he was planning to resign to get into academic work at about the time he requested and received a year's leave of absence in order to work at Harvard. Howie, Mina and I feel that his action will not affect the conduct of SCAMP this summer. However, if anything develops I shall be certain to let you know.

I wonder if you could do me a favor. We are very anxious to see Flannigan's thesis whether he eventually comes to work here or not. If it is at all possible we would appreciate a copy of his thesis even if it is only on a loan basis.

Sincerely yours,

R. A. LEISLER  
 Chief  
 Mathematical Research Division  
 Office of Research and Development