

Serial: 846

2 MAR 1959

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

Dear Dr. Cairns:

I appreciate that you must be completely honest with the potential participants of SCAMP, but Paige's letter as stated will convey a much stronger impression than the situation warrants. It will be fatal to tell people that the summer plans are not definite. It would not only mean that scientists would make other plans for this summer, but might also prejudice any future plans. The Presidential Directive as now interpreted permits the consummation of appointments already committed. It might be well to be cautious in making further commitments, however.

Campaigns talked to Mina Rees and Fred Rigby of ONR, and Dr. Alt of the Bureau of Standards, who felt that any such strict interpretation as Paige quotes was unreasonable. Alt suggested that we write a letter to the Secretary of Commerce pointing out the reasons for our wanting this to continue, and we will do that.

I feel that Paige's letter does not accurately portray the exact state of affairs. A precise and authoritative interpretation of the Presidential Directive may take some weeks, especially as the Department of Commerce is more concerned about its effect on its larger programs. I think that if you want to warn participants it would be well to word the letter so that they realize that the probability of trouble is nearer .01 than .5.

If there is anything further we can do to smooth the way please let us know. We are very anxious for your symposium to be a success.

Sincerely,

W. F. FRIEDMAN
 Special Assistant

Enclosure

Copy of Proposed Letter
 to Secretary of Commerce

cc: AG
 C/S
 S/ASST
 R/D (3)

MR: This in answer to Prof. Cairns letter asking for advice on a proposed letter to all SCAMP members telling them there is danger of the symposium not materializing.

H.H.CAMPAIGNE, R/D, Ext 60256

S/ASST