

September 6, 1955

Dear Dr. Hayek:

I have made a start so far as financial sponsorship of a Mont Pelerin Society meeting at Wabash College next fall is concerned. I have met with an encouraging show of interest but I am in urgent need of more specific information.

To obtain definite dollar commitments I need to know the following:

1. Who will be present? It would, I am sure, be unwise to proceed unless we can be assured of a good attendance of strong, well known men from Europe. This information needs to be specific with names and probability of attendance. Also, estimated financial assistance needed for each individual. In instances where there is any question of the point of view of the individual being known, reference material should be sighted or a brief digest of his position and accomplishments furnished.
2. What are the contemplated topics of discussion and who are likely to be the formal discussion leaders? This question is of equal importance to the first and for the very same reason. I am confident of success in obtaining financial support for a well attended American meeting of the Mont Pelerin group providing the topics discussed, the discussion leaders and the conference participants are all of a quality to challenge the imagination.
3. Less important to the underwriters but equally significant to Wabash College is the date of the meeting. If you and your associates are affirmatively disposed toward Wabash College, we at the college shall be delighted to devote our total facilities, physical and personal, toward making the conference a success but as I indicated to you in my earlier letter it would be necessary for the conference to conclude before Monday, September 3, 1956 and we strongly prefer the dates of August 27 through September 1, 1956.
4. I also need additional information with regard to the total budget. When you, Dr. Van Sickle and I discussed this matter originally, we talked in terms of \$30,000 or \$35,000. When Dr. Jewkes, Van Sickle and I reviewed the same subject on his second visit to Wabash, we talked in terms up to \$50,000. While the opinion of one of the well informed underwriting sources with whom I have talked is that a really successful meeting is apt to cost as much as \$75,000. The total amount of money to be sought is, in my opinion, less important than a sensible, well thought through, supporting budget.

I am sending this letter by air mail, special delivery hoping that it catches you before your departure for Europe. Failing in that, I sincerely hope it is forwarded to you. I am sending a copy also to Dr. Jewkes with a note of explanation as indicated by the attached carbon. If it is possible for you and him to join judgments in an early detailed response, it will be very helpful to our joint cause.

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