

20630 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, California
10 February 1952.

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Dear Al:

Here I come again with a problem which is none of your business; again, however, I suspect that with the great effort you can do us more good than anyone else I know, so I am approaching you.

As you can tell by looking at a schedule, I suspect, a Mr. William F. Friedman of Washington is scheduled to talk at the Communications and/or Electronics school (or something approximately that) at the Air University on 10 March. I do not know his topic, but I suspect that it will have something to do with communications security.

Mr. Friedman and I are both members of an Research and Development Board Group which is trying constructively to initiate research on a set of problems best left undescribed here. Mr. Friedman is in a position where he can do something about this research, and is anxious to, and I am in a position where I can inflict free advice on him.

Some of the advice I have inflicted is to try to talk RAND or possibly the Bureau of Statistics' Institute of Statistical Analysis (at CIA) into attacking this problem, but I have also insisted that a good university capable of functioning like a university and at the same time preserving security would be a most attractive place to try. The Air University seems to me (and, I suspect, to him) to be the nearest approach to such an institution.

I doubt that the research activities of the Air University in quantitative fields have developed enough up to now to make it desirable for us to back it instead of, say, RAND for an immediate effort. I have advised Mr. Friedman to look into the future a little while he is there to see whether there is any probability that the Air University will develop along these lines, whether the Air University would welcome encouragement to develop along these lines, and whether our Group or someone we can influence might have the wherewithal to produce such encouragement.

I have agreed to meet Mr. Friedman down there on 10 March if I can get in the gate. I suppose that we should try to see General Barker or somebody, but we most definitely will have nothing definite to discuss. The reason I am writing you is to ask you a-vice as to whether the trip will even be worth while. If you believe it will be worth while, perhaps you could suggest people for us to try to see.

I shall have clearance sent down by GHR for me, and I suspect that the Defense Department will furnish Mr. Friedman's clearance. If not, I can ask GHR to clear him, but in fact we shall almost certainly not get to classified material and he is already going to be on the campus.

Col. A. E. Hbert USAF

10 February 1952

2.

invited speaker, so I doubt that this is a problem at all. I shall also write to the Logistics People in the hope that I can talk with a few of them on 11 March.

I should like to point out that neither of us will have said investment in any meeting we can produce, for I am blowing myself to six months in dewy California and will be returning from a meeting in Washington at that time anyway, and Mr. Wise man will be there then for his talk. Thus, if there is over an outside chance that we will accomplish anything, I believe that we should try.

As to personal matters, I might report that I came out in November to try to get some writing done. I borrowed an office from RAND, and set up shop for a steady series of junkets back to Washington and elsewhere. I have been back three times so far plus a trip to Boston, a couple of runs to San Francisco (my third there comes up a couple of hours from now) one to San Diego plus a corvette date at San Diego due to film, and a drive down to Long Beach (not by bicycle). I hope to be more settled when I get back in March.

I shall appreciate any advice you can give me. If you care to write, you might address me at Logistics Research Project, 707 22 Street NW, Washington 7, D. C., and mark the letter personal, please hold. I'll show up there about 1 March. If I have not heard from you by then, I'll take the liberty of telephoning you, which might be the easiest way for you to answer this letter anyway, all things considered.

I hope that you can find time to call up Col. Alder and tell you have this letter. Then you'll both be confused. I intend to write him about the logistics part of my visit. (I will bet that he will be in Santa Monica on 11 March.)

I hope that I get to see you again, then. Please say hello to everybody for me.

Regards,

C. B. Tompkins.