

Dear Fahs:

I have to write you a long, long letter, and pray you to give to it the best of your attention: I earnestly need your friendly advise because I am quite uncertain as to the best way out.

You know ~~that~~ about the construction of the Ciudad Universitaria just outside Mexico City; you know that the construction has been going on for a while, and at a tempo and at a cost which may permit its main support, President Alemán, to inaugurate it before his term ends on November 30, this year. That means that on October 20 all schools, laboratories and institutes which will have new buildings in the Ciudad, must ^{have been} ~~be~~ moved, and among them the National Library, doubtless the best of the country and ^{essential} ~~essential~~ for any serious research on any Mexican problem.

It would seem obvious that the only plan to move the Library would be: 1) ^{first} to wait for the new building to be really ready; 2) to pack ~~and move~~ each day a certain amount of books and to ^{move} ~~carry~~ them next day to the new building, so as to make ^{it} ~~possible~~ to consult them either in the old or in the new quarters. The idea of the ^{officials} ~~officials~~ of the University is quite different: they have been packing all sorts of books for more than a month, and will continue to do so ~~every day~~ so as to move all of them ^{from June to September} ~~before October 20~~, with the result that ^{will} ~~those~~ ^{unavailable} ~~officials~~ say the Library ~~will~~ be ~~close~~ for a year, from June 1952 to June 1953.

The plan looked so absurd and the damage to readers and researcher was so evident, that it seemed ^{it} a question of talking to some sensible people to ^{change} ~~have~~ modified ^{it}. I first tried to talk directly with the ^{librarian} ~~director~~ and his assistant, with no avail; I tried next the University Council on Humanities, with no results; finally, I induced El Colegio Nacional to write a ^{letter} ~~letter~~ to the President of the University, and this gentleman sent it to the Librarian to answer it. It seems to me

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that we have to accept as a fact that the National Library will be ~~un~~available for a whole year, from ~~june~~ 1952 to june 1953.

I am afraid that this ~~will~~ will damage the work of the Seminar in a very serious and un~~av~~avoidable way, 1) because there are many books, mainly pamphlets, which you find only at the National Library; 2) beca^{use} ~~use~~ you fin in it, concentrated and complete, whole series of books, official papers, ^{for example,} (wh~~tt~~ther from the federal or the local governments. You may try to ~~consult~~ consult them in other public or private libraries in Mexico City, but when you need to travel to the ~~capital of~~ the provinces, the amount of time and money wasti^{ed}g ~~in such a moving~~ ~~around~~ ~~will~~ will be considerable. ~~is unbearable~~ unbearable.

It seems to me that there are two ways out: one would be to go on with the Seminar using the books and documents available in other ^{li}braries; the other, to interrupt the Seminar from july 1st., 1952 to june 30, 1953. The advantages of the first solution are that the Seminar is a going concern, that you ~~have~~ already have an impulse, and organization and a personel; the inconveni^{ces}ents are just as clear: the work will necessarily be slower and we run the risk of presenting a result which may be incomplete, ~~or~~ weak, or ^{frankly} poor. The advantage of the ~~for~~ second solution would be to depend not only on the best library, but ^{on} ~~of~~ (a library wick for being by next year classified and housed in a proper building will have an enhanced value. I must add that the National Archives will have a new and proper building next year. The disadvantage is, of course, that il will be improbable to have next year the same people as ^{we have} ~~now~~, so we shall start ^t with new people to experie^{ment}nt with and to train.

Is there a middle way? I think there is, and that would be for me to go on with one or two assitants at the most. ~~Several~~ I see several advantadges: my personal ^{research} work will be carried on and faster since ~~most of the work of~~ ~~is~~ planing and supervising other peoples's

will be reduced to a minimum.

~~work~~

~~will cease.~~ (As a matter of fact, I will be in the ~~States~~ States for five months, beginning october next,-- two months at Texas and the other three in Wasington^{for} and New York.) My assistants will see that the material already read, and ~~which~~^{with enormous} marked down, will be typed, ordered and classified, so as to ~~form the basis for the~~

~~people~~ have it ready for the new people coming july, ^{1953.} ~~next year.~~ ~~There~~

There is another question to be considered, the chances we ~~shall~~ have to secure next year ~~as good~~ people ^{as good} as we have now. I think that the present group is a good one, and the fact that most of ^{its members} ~~them~~ have been working for ~~two~~ years is a ~~definitive~~ definite advantadge, but they are no irreplaceable with the possible exception of Moisés González. Finally, let me say that everybody at the Seminar is under the understanding that it will be closed on june 30, as I have not told them so far that your help has been secured for two more years.

~~I do not know, of course,~~

Mr Reyes is out of ~~town~~ town, so I have not talked with him so far, but I hope that El Colegio will pay ^{entirely} for the one or two assistants ^{Your grant, with the exception of my stipend, will be kept intact.} who will be kept. I do not know, of course, the financial questions ^{Your foundation} that ~~will be~~ raised. ~~at your Foundation.~~

Eager to find out your ^{on} comments on ^u such a sad surprise as given ^{by} our already notorious University authorities,

I am, with best wishes, yours friendly