

19 March, 1975

Dr. W. G. Schneider

With regard to Dr. Halperin's proposal, my reaction is similar to that of Dr. Julien, that is, the proposal seems rather ambitious at the present time, and yet I cannot help being sympathetic toward it. It would, of course, be marvellous if we could start an Institute of Advanced Studies in Canada. Even such a small country as Ireland has such an Institute. It would have the great advantage of making it clear to the politicians and the public that advanced studies are a good thing in themselves and do not need the possibility of practical applications to justify them.

It certainly seems impossible to start something like that before June 1975. If there are people who withdraw because it isn't done right away they cannot be very familiar with the way in which our government operates.

According to the proposal a start should be made for a School of Mathematics for a provisional period of three years, yet three senior people are to be appointed on a permanent basis (and how could one obtain first-rate people without giving them permanence). The two things, a provisional Institute and permanence, are contradictory. I don't believe one could start on a provisional basis. One has to go all the way or not do it at all.

Personally I feel very pessimistic about interesting the government in spending \$20 million, even on a matching basis, when at least up to now the government is far from giving basic science even the minimum amounts necessary to maintain the status quo, but perhaps a new idea such as the Institute would help to bring to the fore the need for support of basic research.

GH:mpt

G. Herzberg