

December 15, 1971

MEMO To the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation
FROM WSC
RE: My Resignation

On October 22 I wrote Vie asking her to announce my resignation from the Foundation's staff.

(Henry Atkinson)
(Peterson)
This brought forth calls from Hal and Vie in effect demanding explanations. Though I deplore this procedure, involving as it does criticism that so often is destructive, I found myself drawn by them into giving reasons for my action.

In each case the answer was to ask me to withdraw my resignation.

As such withdrawal would resolve none of the things that had brought the resignation about, I restated it in a MEMO dated November 14, addressed directly to the Foundation and including a copy of a letter to Vie dated May 10, 1969, which in my judgment adequately stated and still defines my position.

The response to this is a letter received December 10 from Mr. Prentice telling me that he is "puzzled" by my resignation and that Lowell, Mason and Arthur have suggested that there is no problem that cannot be settled if Mr. Prentice and I "could have a good talk together."

I assume that this is the course decided upon by the Executive Committee, if not by the full Board of the Foundation.

As the issue is the autonomy of TRED, and of me in the conduct of TRED's affairs, it is unrealistic to expect that such an issue can be resolved by the one person who has persistently violated that autonomy and who now bears the added power as the Foundation's president.

If the Board, or the Executive Committee, endorses the increasing encroachments of Mr. Prentice, or if it is content to leave this to be settled in a series of running battles between Mr. Prentice and me, the Foundation and I will be better off going our separate ways now, rather than having me waste my time defending the independence of TRED and myself.

Surely everyone on the Board must know Mr. Prentice's low opinion of professors, a theme he has not hesitated to dwell on even when he is their host. Mr. Prentice is strong-willed. He is impatient ~~at~~ disagreement. All these may have contributed to his success in his own fields.

But I am convinced that these traits, applied to the academic field, are disastrous and I am willing to back up this conviction with my job -- at a time when its results are at a peak.

I wish the Board had believed that its own best interest lay in establishing lines of demarcation between the field in which I am working and the other areas of the Foundation's operations and in requiring its president to respect and defend them.

Until it does, my resignation stands.

(Signed) Weld Carter