

UNIVERSITY OF CHATTANOOGA

CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE 37403

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 4, 1969

Dear Zevi:

Thank you for your too-kind note. I am sure you acted throughout the recent events with the concern for principle as you see it and with the kindness that have always characterized you.

I would only remark that the "danger of a breakdown in the relationship between Rice and the Houston community" that you speak of is not a future or potential danger but a long-accomplished fact which has occurred during the last ten years, as most of the Houston community knows. My appointment did not create this breakdown and my withdrawal will not heal it, and the existence of this breakdown is one reason why some of the faculty were so opposed to my appointment. I hope that the University can somehow begin to bridge this gap, which will otherwise destroy it. The dream of a sort of self-sufficient Harvard in South Texas, incalculably and sufficiently wealthy and institutionally and intellectually independent of its surroundings, is indeed only a dream. Pitzer discovered this, but many at Rice still refuse to do so.

Vetta joins me in best wishes to you and Bertha.

Sincerely,



William Masterson

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