

PROF. DR J. TINBERGEN

THE HAGUE, 27 September 1954
Raamweg 18

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Professor Lloyd G. Reynolds,
Chairman of the
Department of Economics, *Yale University*
New Haven (Conn)

Dear Professor Reynolds,

I got your letter of September 22 and want to congratulate you with the initiative to invite Professor Koopmans to join your faculty. In fact, Tjalling Koopmans is one of the leading econometrists of the world, if not the leading. He published very important studies in the field of both mathematical statistics and mathematical economics. As to mathematical statistics, he took an active part in developing the method of maximum likelihood, i.e. the general method of testing quantitative relationships. In the field of mathematical economics he contributed to the development of the so-called technique of linear programming which he applied to transportation problems. During the war he worked in this field on behalf of the shipping problems of the United States Government.

All his publications are characterized by a very high qualitative standard and a thorough knowledge of both economic theory and mathematical methods. He is the editor and co-author of standard works on these topics mentioned. As a director of research of the Cowles Commission, which is by far the most important center in the world of econometric research, he guided and stimulated a large number of advanced students in this field. In addition he is a teacher of rare qualities able to explain very difficult subject matter to younger students in the field. It is without any reserve that I can warmly recommend him and, in fact, I am certain you will find his participation in your activities an asset of considerable value. I did not mention by name his most important publications since you asked me to reply as soon as possible and since I take it that these names will have been mentioned in Professor Koopman's application. They are generally known.

May I add that I was glad to have new contacts with you after the very pleasant visit I paid to Yale last year? I hope that everything is good with you personally.

Yours very sincerely,

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