ORIGIN OF SOCIAL BIOLOGY IN THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

The first contact between the School and representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation was made in September 1923, when Mr. Beardsley Ruml, then Director of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, after seeing Professor Graham Wallas, came to see the Secretary of the School and myself at Liverpool, where I was attending a meeting of the British Association as President of the Economic Section.

As a result of this first contact, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, on January 11th, 1924, wrote making grants to the School of £25,000 for building and £20,000 a year for four and a half years in aid of research by teachers, the latter sum to be used in accordance with a Memorandum of the 21st September, 1923, which I had prepared in consultation with Mr. Sidney Webb.

In the discussions with Mr. Ruml, it was made clear that the Memorial had large sums to dispose of, and were prepared to consider further grants. During 1924 I was in Canada with the British Association, and took the opportunity of visiting New York and seeing Mr. Ruml there. In the spring of 1925 he was in London and I put before him the needs of the School, which gradually took shape in a Memorandum as to Some Requirements of the London School of Economics. This Memorandum in its original form, dealt, first, with a number of requirements on its present basis (extension of premises, Library Catalogue, Library Binding, part time and suspended Chairs for Political Economy, Sociology, Political Science, International Law, Statistics, Economic History) which it was desired to revive or make full-time; second, with possible new developments. Among the latter emphasis was laid on study of the physical or natural bases of the Social Sciences, including Anthropology, Social Biology and Psychology. This had always been an interest of mine, but had
received strong re-inforcement through discussions with Professor Seligman. In regard to Psychology, my proposals were prepared in consultation with Dr. Myers. I believe that the argument presented in that Memorandum (and subsequently confirmed by the Professorial Council of the School) is still both valid and important for the future of the School and of the Social Sciences.

I reported my discussions with Mr. Ruml on June 17th, 1925 to the Emergency Committee which had just been enlarged to include representatives of the teaching staff (Professor Rowley and Professor Gutteridge), and thereafter on July 16th, 1925, sent the Memorandum 'officially' to Mr. Ruml for the consideration of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Trustees. The Emergency Committee, which had only just been established as an effective body with representation of the teachers, did not keep formal minutes, but from my subsequent action it is clear that the application to Mr. Ruml was made on their authority. This Memorandum is given in Annex I below.

In the first draft of my Memorandum and in the discussion with Mr. Ruml, I was mainly concerned to obtain money for making the School adequate within its then existing scope, providing buildings, reviving suspended Chairs, or making part-time Chairs into full-time Chairs. A year before the Memorandum was sent to the Memorial Trustees we had persuaded the L.C.C. to acquire compulsorily for us the Houghton Street houses; a note dated July 11th, 1924, arguing the case for this, is attached to the Memorandum. It was made clear, however, by Mr. Ruml that while he was prepared to consider grants for such purposes, he felt that these purposes should come second, and that the prospect of getting help for any purpose at all from the Trustees of the Memorial depended considerably upon our indicating that we proposed developments of some new kind. He was in fact particularly interested in extension to the natural bases of the Social Sciences. When, therefore, the Memorandum was finally sent to the Laura Spelman
Rockefeller Memorial on July 16th, 1925, the order of the two parts of the Memorandum was reversed and it was accompanied not only by an official letter but by a personal letter in the following terms:-

COPY: July 16th, 1925.

Dear Ruml,

I now send you officially the London School of Economics' Memorandum which I hope will appeal to your Trustees. I have, as you suggested, reversed the previous order, putting the 'natural bases of the Social Sciences' first and the prior needs of the School second. Actually, the prior needs are by unfortunate necessity really prior, and if I myself were a trustee desiring to do as much for the School as I could, I should give something like the following:-

Houghton Street, £20,000 capital. This is not more than a quarter of the total cost. The new developments of the 'natural bases' will certainly occupy at least a quarter of the total space. That is to say, a building grant can be treated either as part of the new developments of the 'natural bases' or as a means of meeting prior needs. Nothing whatever can be done till we have this building.

Library Binding, £5,000 capital.
Library Subject Catalogue, £3,000 capital.
Chair of Political Economy, £1,050 a year for three years.

I have altered this from the original figure of £775 (corresponding to a full salary of £1,250) because I have just heard that we might get the right man for £1,500 and not for £1,250.

Natural Bases of Social Sciences, £50,000 (endowing two Chairs of their equivalent) and £3,000 or £4,000 for ten years.

Of course, I realise that I am not a Trustee and that neither you nor I can foretell how they will look at the matter.

The response to this application was a letter from the Memorial of September 1st, 1928, making a grant of £155,000 for the "prior needs" (exactly the £31,000 suggested in my personal letter above for Building, Library Binding and three years' salary for a Chair of Economics) and expressing readiness to hear further about the new developments.

This letter was brought before the Emergency Committee of the Governors on the 2nd February, when it was decided that the Director
should consult Professor Hobhouse and other teachers concerned before action was taken. Two meetings were held accordingly between myself and the teachers concerned (Professors Bowley, Hobhouse, Rodwell Jones, Laski, Westermarck, Wolf, Ginsberg and Dr. Myers) while Professors Seligman and Malinowski were consulted, though not able to be present at the meetings.

The first meeting on the 18th May, 1926, was reported to the Professorial Council on the following day when "it was left to the Director to explore the matter further in consultation with individuals and groups of individuals concerned, having regard to University Regulations as to the M. Sc. degree and to bring forward proposals for a further meeting."

The second meeting took place on November 26th, 1926, and from this meeting there were submitted to the Professorial Council a Report with proposals for the development of "Social Anthropology and Social Biology" as well as other borderline subjects with definitions of their scope and proposals to establish Chairs and other permanent teaching posts only to be filled as soon as they could be filled satisfactorily.

This Report was considered by the Professorial Council at their meeting on December 1st, 1926, and, as the Minutes show, was the subject of a full discussion, in which Professor Hobhouse raised the question of having a first degree of "B.Sc. in Sociology". After two or three amendments had been accepted the Report was adopted unanimously. The Minutes of the Council with the Report of the Teachers' Meeting as adopted are given in Annex II.

I sent a report of this to Mr. Ruml on December 2nd and shortly after I visited America. There, after discussion with Mr. Ruml, I wrote two agreed letters to him on December 29th, 1926.

One of these letters asked for

(a) £500,000 "as an endowment to promote the study both of the Natural bases of the Social Sciences" on the lines indicated in the Memorandum which was submitted in my letter of December 2nd,
and of modern social conditions (b) £175,000 for building and subject
catalogue. The other letter asked for £200,000 endowment for inter-
national studies, including the establishment of a Chair of Interna-
tional Law.

The history of this £200,000 was that Mr. Ruml had more money
to give away than I at least felt at that stage certain of being able
to spend advantageously on the 'Natural Bases' and he made it clear
that his Trustees were interested in International Studies. Falling
in with this suggestion and securing endowment for the Chair of
International Law was, so far as I know, my only unauthorised action
in these negotiations.

In response to these two letters of 28th December the Laura
Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Trustees, by letter of 14th January 1926,
gave grants exactly as suggested. The £500,000 and £200,000 were
both given as general endowment, so that the allocation of income would
be within the discretion of the School, but the letter added that
"the appropriations... were made in view of the circumstances and
plans outlined in your letters and memoranda".

These grants were reported to the Emergency Committee on 27th
January, and to the Professorial Council at their meeting on February
2nd, 1927. It was reported further to the Professorial Council
that the Emergency Committee had approved as a provisional guide to
expenditure, the application of roughly half the new endowment income
to Anthropology and Social Biology, a quarter to Modern Social Condi-
tions and a quarter to International Studies. On the motion of
Professor Jenks and Professor Hobhouse the Council passed unanimously
a resolution of appreciation of the action of the Laura Spelman
Rockefeller Memorial Trustees.

Chairs of Anthropology and International Law were established
immediately, and several other part-time posts were raised to full-
time posts. The establishment of a Chair of Social Biology was
postponed till enquiries showed that suitable candidates were available.
The allocation to study of modern social conditions was represented
by a contribution of £2,000 a year for five years to the New Survey of London Life and Labour, which like Social Biology, was undertaken only when a suitable Director, in the person of Sir Hubert Llewellyn Smith had been secured. I hoped, at the time, that the London Survey would be succeeded by further enquiries in the same field, as an integral part of the work of the School, and that £2,000 a year or some such sum would continue to be spent on such purposes.

This record shows:-

(1) That the subject of Social Biology has been part of the School's programme, formally approved by the Professorial Council on the report of a representative body of all the teachers concerned, since 1926.

(2) That funds were obtained specifically for it and so far from these funds being diverted from any other purpose, the prospective development of the new studies was the effective means of securing help for studies previously pursued in the School and for its building and Library.

(3) That while the present Director has exercised great freedom of initiative in planning new developments and in confidential discussions with possible donors, he has relied even at the earliest stages on the advice and judgment of those directly affected by the new proposals (e.g. Professor Seligman and Dr. Myers) and that the general body of teachers not so directly concerned have had repeated opportunities of discussion and expression of views before definite action was taken.

W.H.E.
16.7.35.
COPY OF MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED IN JULY 1925

by the

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

to the

TRUSTEES OF THE LAURA SPELMAN ROCKEFELLER MEMORIAL

TOGETHER WITH APPENDIX  ON THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS SITE.
MEMORANDUM FROM

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

The following Memorandum deals first with the study of the natural bases of the social sciences, as the most important development now to be made in the field of those sciences, and second with urgent needs of the School that must be met before any important new development can be undertaken. Attached to the memorandum are Appendices illustrating the work and needs of the School.

I. THE NATURAL BASES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES.

The existing departments of the London School of Economics and Political Science fall into two main groups, corresponding roughly to the two parts of its title. One group is concerned with economic relations of men and comprises, beside the department of Economics in the narrow sense such subjects as accounting and business organisation, banking and currency, commerce and industry and transport. In the other group, concerned with political and social relations, are politics and public administration, international relations, sociology, and law. History and statistics are common to both groups.

To complete the circle of the social sciences a third group of studies is required, dealing with the natural bases of economics and politics, with the human material and with its physical environment, and forming a bridge between the natural and the social sciences. On the side of human material there should be included here such subjects as Anthropology, 'Social Biology' (genetics, population, vital statistics, heredity, eugenics and dysgenics), Physiology so far as it bears on problems of fatigue and nutrition, Economic Psychology, and Public Health. On the side of physical environment come Geography in its widest sense as a study of natural resources, Agriculture and
Meteorology. This third group already receives some attention at the School of Economics. Its full development - the addition of the missing third to the existing structure of the School - would be perhaps the most important step that could be taken now for the development of the social sciences. Apart from its direct value in advancing the borders of human knowledge, it would confer a great indirect benefit by bringing the natural and social sciences into contact and importing the methods of the former into the latter.

In practice it would mean adding to the School at least four new professorships with adequate departmental resources of junior staff and accommodation, for

- Anthropology
- Social Biology
- Economic Psychology
- Public Health

and strengthening the existing department of Geography on its physical side.

In Anthropology there is now at the School a small (less than half-time) Chair of Ethnology and a Readership in Social Anthropology. A full-time Chair of Anthropology with sufficient junior staff to allow for ample travel and field work is needed.

In Social Biology there is no post. Special courses of lectures on problems of heredity have been given in recent years with marked success and meet an obvious demand. In this field it is not desired of course to establish a biological laboratory. What is wanted is to get a man of biological training to learn economics and politics and then and only then apply himself to economic and social problems. Actual investigation would be mainly statistical.

In Economic Psychology a beginning has been made in co-operation with the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, whose Director is a member of the School staff. It is understood that an application
for assistance is being made to the Trustees by the Institute and it is hoped that this application may be considered favourably. For the development of Economic Psychology however as a subject of University study and teaching, in conjunction with the other social sciences, in important teaching post and other expenditure are indispensable at the School of Economics as well.

In Public Health there is equally room and need for a border line study, stretching out from a medical basis into such subjects as town planning, housing, or vital statistics. No provision is yet made for this.

The holders of these chairs if they were established would naturally often work on converging lines. Full investigation, for instance of the problem of 'deficiency' (whether manifested in crime or pauperism or disease or lunacy) would call for contributions from all four as well as from specialists in other branches of the School's work, such as law and economics. No one person could combine in himself all the previous experience necessary; that is the reason for suggesting four separate chairs.

The cost of doing all that is suggested - adding, as has been said, the missing third to the circle of the social sciences and the structure of the School - would naturally be very considerable. Additional annual expenditure on the scale of £10,000 a year, with some though not very great capital expenditure in addition, would ultimately be required. To endow the whole development completely from the beginning would thus cost about £250,000. To endow a single major Chair at £2,500 with superannuation payment of £125 would at 4½% cost about £39,000.

Complete endowment from the beginning, however, of the whole development is neither necessary nor desirable. In some cases it would be necessary to offer permanence to get the right man, but in others the post should be frankly experimental. In some cases also the establishment of any teaching post ought to depend upon knowing
that a person of the right qualifications was available to fill it. Permanent provision sufficient for perhaps two out of the four posts suggested above, together with a renewable grant for a period of years, would meet the position financially. To this should be added a grant in aid of building without which any new development is impossible; a definite scheme of extension of building in Houghton Street is described below.

The School authorities are deeply interested in developing the social sciences in the manner indicated. They have already made a beginning in most of the fields of study affected and they will take further steps from time to time as they are able. But the pressure on the School’s finances for work within its existing sphere rules out the possibility of any large development with its general funds. It must first provide for certain prior needs.

II. URGENT NEEDS OF SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS.

The most important of these prior needs of the School are set out below:

(1) Normal Expansion of Expenditure within present scope.

In the immediate future general administration (including maintenance of the new wing just erected and that to be erected in Houghton Street and administrative salaries) will certainly cost the School an additional £5,000 a year. Conversion of part-time into full-time professorships (apart from the Chair of Political Economy dealt with specially below) and additions to the junior teaching staff will involve something like another £4,000. Increase of salaries to existing teachers will cost another £2,000 a year. The expenditure on the Library (apart from the subject catalogue) must go up by perhaps £1,500 a year. For all this, amounting to £12,000 or £13,000 a year, the School must look for an increase of its general resources from the University Grants Committee or elsewhere in this country. No application in respect of it is made to the Trustees.

(2) Extension of Premises in Houghton Street.

The London County Council this session inserted in their General Powers Bill a clause for the compulsory acquisition of certain houses in Houghton Street, abutting on the present School premises, with a
view to placing the houses and site at the disposal of the School for building. The total capital cost of this extension including compulsory acquisition of site and erection and equipment of the new building may be put at £80,000. The School has reason to hope that something like half of this total—say £35,000 representing the cost of acquiring the site—may be provided by the County Council and that the site may thus be placed at the disposal of the School without charge to it. No definite decision, however, has been reached on this. It is hoped that the L.S.R.M. Trustees may be prepared to make a substantial contribution towards the cost of the new extension—say £10,000 subject to the County Council definitely granting the site to the School, and a further contribution of pound for pound up to another £10,000 in respect of any additional capital sum obtained by the School within the next five years for building and equipment. Any new development is clearly impossible without promises.

The Houghton Street extension is the most important of the present requirements of the School. The urgency of the need for this extension of premises is sufficiently shown by the fact that the School has been able to demonstrate this in turn to a succession of other authorities concerned in the matter. It was necessary first to persuade the London County Council to take the quite unusual step of inserting a clause for the compulsory acquisition of the houses in question into their annual general powers bill, with the prospect that the Council would ultimately have to find the money for the actual purchase. It was necessary next to obtain the support of the Senate of the University of London in order that the Council might proceed with the clause in the Bill. It was necessary finally to convince a Private Bills Committee of the House of Commons that the owners of the houses in question ought to be dispossessed. The owners of six out of the eight houses in fact put up a very strong opposition which finally led to a compromise whereby 7 out of the 8 houses were granted to the School while a condition securing the School from annoyance by noise and vibration through the use of the remaining house was inserted. Com-
pulmonary powers of this sort could not have been obtained except by bringing forward an overwhelmingly strong case.

The nature of this case may be judged from the copy of the memorandum on the London School of Economics site given in Appendix "A" and sent to the Senate last July. The Senate thereon on the 24th October 1924, passed the following resolution:

"THAT the Senate approve generally of the scheme contained in the foregoing Memorandum and for the reasons there given are of opinion that it is of the utmost importance that the property in Houghton Street therein referred to should be acquired for the purposes of the "London School of Economics".

(3) Library Catalogue.

There is no subject catalogue to the Library, a deficiency which of course most seriously hampers its full use. Moreover, a subject catalogue if printed would be an invaluable work of reference in all other Libraries serving to a large extent as a bibliography of Social Science. Enquiries made of a number of other Libraries have shown that the printing and publication of such a subject catalogue would be welcomed as a measure of first-rate importance. It is estimated that the cost of compiling the catalogue would be something like £3,000 and that another £5,000 would be required for printing and publication, (a printer's estimate for £5,600 has been received). An application for assistance in the printing and publication of the catalogue has been made to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees, and the latter have agreed to grant £5,000 on certain conditions as to lending books to other libraries. It is suggested that the L.S.R.M. Trustees might make a similar grant of £3,000 to meet this provided that the School undertakes the actual compilation of the catalogue from its own resources, and from whatever it may recover as the price of the printed catalogue from other Libraries.
(4) **Library Binding.**

There are very serious arrears of binding, as for many years practically no money at all was available for this purpose; in recent years an annual expenditure of about £300 a year has not nearly kept pace with the requirements, which are probably now from £800 to £1,000 a year. The School hopes to be able to find a sufficient sum annually in future, to keep up to date, if the present arrears can be overtaken. A careful survey of the Library suggests that these will cost at least £5,000. It is suggested that the L.S.R.M. Trustees might make a grant of £5,000 for arrears of binding, on the understanding that the School will undertake to spend not less than another £5,000 in the next twelve years from its own resources on current binding, over and above the present average expenditure of £300 a year.

(5) **Chair of Political Economy.**

The School has a number of part-time Chairs which should be full-time ones, of Chairs suspended altogether for reasons of economy, and of Chairs for which money was originally provided on the basis of their being minor posts (readerships or lectureships) but which now, owing to the development of the School, call for full-time Professors. These include Sociology, Political Science, International Law, and Statistics, for all of which the School is seeking full endowment as it is for a new Chair of Modern History. The most urgent need, however, representing immediate additional expenditure which the School can in no way avoid is that for a Chair of Political Economy.

There is at present a part-time Chair held by Professor Cannan who retires at the end of this Session (July 31st, 1926) under age limit. It will then be necessary for the School to find a full-time Professor and funds for the purpose. It is quite anomalous for the School of Economics not to have a full-time Chair of Political
Economy, the most important Chair of all. The salary of this Chair, to correspond to its importance and to secure filling it by the best possible occupant, should be £1,500 a year representing with superannuation an annual charge of £1,650 or an endowment of about £35,000. The difference between the annual sum now paid to Professor Cannan (£600) and that required for a full-time Chair (£1,650) is £1,050 a year. If the L.S.R.M. Trustees felt able to make a grant say for three years of this annual sum, this would give the School an opportunity to endeavour to find an endowment, and it would undertake either to find such an endowment or to make other permanent provision for the Chair.

CONCLUSION.

It is hoped accordingly that with a view to making possible the great development of the social sciences outlined in the first part of this memorandum the L.S.R.M. Trustees may feel able to make substantial grants, capital and annual, both for the purposes there set out and for the urgent needs of the School set out in heads 2 to 5 of the second part.

In view of the importance of the proposals made, the School will be happy, should the Trustees think this desirable, to send a representative to New York, to give further information.
APPENDIX.

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS SITE

The School of Economics occupies at present an area of 21,750 square feet (half an acre) in the triangle formed between Houghton Street, Clare Market, with its continuation in Portugal Street, and the Air Ministry building. Unfortunately, it has not the whole of this triangle. Between the School and the Air Ministry on Portugal Street is the Smith Memorial, and between the School and Houghton Street is a row of eight small houses (Nos. 5 - 12, Houghton Street), while the actual corner of Houghton Street and Clare Market is occupied by a store room of the St. Clement's Press, whose main building is in Clare Market opposite the old building of the School. It is a matter of great importance for the School that the eight houses in Houghton Street should be acquired, and that their site (amounting with their courtyards to nearly 5,200 square feet) should become available for an extension of building. This is necessary both to give the School sufficient space, and to secure it light, air and quiet.

1. As to space, it may be pointed out that the School is one of the largest University Institutions, comparable to, though still less than, the largest London Colleges, University and King's Colleges, having over 800 regular students and nearly 2,000 other students taking special courses. As against the half-acre occupied by the School, University College has eight acres and King's, while at present only occupying about 2½ acres, is manifestly overcrowded and is estimated to require six acres if it moves to the Bloomsbury site. The special character of the School's work makes it, of course, possible for the School to dispense with engineering workshops and laboratories, and thus to require less space per student than the other Colleges. On the other hand, it needs correspondingly more library space and its relatively large number of research students require special provision. The carrying on of the School's work on its present site is only now made possible both by the most economical use of space, and by the use of rooms for successive lectures without break (making adequate ventilation difficult); even so we have to forego a great deal in the way of accommodation which is essential for satisfactory working. There is no margin at all for expansion, though expansion in several directions is practically inevitable.

The most serious deficiencies of the School in the way of accommodation can be judged from the statement attached as to the use which it is suggested might be made of the Houghton Street site if acquired.

2. As to light, air and quiet, the Houghton Street houses are already in some cases built up so close to the School building as to make the securing of sufficient light impossible (notably in the old hall), and the occupation of the houses for ordinary dwelling purposes leads to intermittent noises interfering appreciably from time to time with the use of the rooms facing on them. Unlike every other large college with a number of day students and staff constantly on the premises, the School has nothing like a quadrangle or court where open air can be enjoyed; the roof and the street are the only alternatives.
This is the present position. There is, however, no prospect that the Houghton Street houses will remain as at present. They are old property which will in any case soon be pulled down and re-built. When re-built they will inevitably, in view of the value of the land, be raised to the highest point legally permissible. The St. Clement's Press who, as stated, occupy the corner of Houghton Street and Clare Market, have indeed already a definite project of extension, and have bought up two or three of the Houghton Street houses and have made offers for the others. They have only not proceeded with these projects in these cases because the owners (in two or three cases occupying freeholders) have demanded extravagant prices, while in another case it is understood that the St. Clement's Press have bought the freehold but that the existing lease-holder is asking so large a sum for the surrender of his lease, that they have preferred to wait until the lease runs out (which it will shortly do). When that happens it seems certain that the St. Clement's Press will proceed with their building scheme. This scheme was stated to the Director by Sir William Berry (who, through the "Sunday Times", controls St. Clement's Press) to include the installation of noisy printing machinery along Houghton Street. Such a project, if it were carried out, would render the whole eastern side of the School's premises useless for teaching or study.

The danger threatening the School from Houghton Street is thus extremely serious and actual, not hypothetical.

In view of this danger, the School authorities have made more than one attempt to purchase by voluntary agreement some of the houses in Houghton Street, as the purchase of one of them would probably be sufficient to stop this extension; they have found that where the owners were prepared to name a price at all, the price was extortionate, while in other cases the owners refused to consider a sale at all. They have also approached the St. Clement's Press, who some years ago had offered to sell to the School one of their Houghton Street houses (giving up the project of an extension); but the St. Clement's Press were not prepared to renew their offer and after considering the possibility of dropping their extension scheme felt unable to do so.

The site occupied by the School belongs to the London County Council. On it the School will shortly have a building worth well over £200,000; when the Clare Market wing is finished the School will have spent since 1920 on building and equipment together over £150,000 (£15,000 only being provided by the London County Council and £135,000 from other sources). This site and building are held by the School on licence with about 96 years to run. It is, therefore, in the interests of the County Council to protect their own property by securing, if possible, the Houghton Street houses. This can only be done by the exercise of compulsory powers.

Assuming that the London County Council are prepared to purchase the Houghton Street houses and license them to the School, like the remainder of the site, the School would erect a new building on their site as soon as possible, meanwhile making such use as was possible of the existing houses. The accommodation of which the School is at present most definitely in need and which will not be supplied by the new wing now approaching completion on Clare Market, is the following: