

Royal Statistical Society,

4, Portugal Street,

London, W.C.2.

HOLBORN 4283.

19th February, 1953

Dear Sir Ronald,

I was glad to see from your letter of February 16th that you are willing to be our President for a second term and I know that my pleasure will be widely shared.

You invite my views about the coming changes in the Council. I entirely agree that this body should be fully representative of current statistical interests and I think it right to say that the officers and Council have been very largely guided by this necessity when considering those to be taken off and those to come on. It is certainly with this thought mainly in my mind that I make the following personal suggestions which, apart from a brief word with Professor Bradford Hill, I have not been able to discuss with any of our colleagues.

To help you in your own considerations I enclose a copy of the current Council with their attendances and a copy of the relevant extracts from the Bye-Laws. (These two papers will be circulated to the Council for the March meeting.) Three must come off by reason of seniority - this means Stone and two of those elected in 1948. These two, I think, should be Tippet and Hartley, leaving Pieller (one of your current vice presidents). Then we must take off 3 others - I suggest Professor Richardson (partly on grounds of his attendance record) and Mr. Starke of the Government Actuary's Department which is also represented by Sir George Maddex, the Government Actuary himself. Could we leave the third name to the Council? I myself would take off Devons of Manchester who has never attended nor otherwise assisted the Council, but I should like to see who comes to the mind of the Council for this third departure.

Now we come to replacements, two of whom must never have previously served. We have three nominations to date - the closing date is February 28th. None of these have served before. They are Miss Keen, formerly Secretary of the Industrial Applications Section; Miss Canliffe, for the past few years Secretary of the Study Section; and Mr. C.A. Moser who was proposed last year by Professor Kendall, but in view of the many claims a year ago the Council agreed to hold over for consideration this year. I myself would be prepared to see these three people come

on/

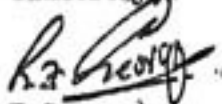
Professor Sir Ronald Fisher, Sc.D., F.R.S.  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Genetics,  
Whittingehame Lodge,  
44, Storey's Way,  
CAMBRIDGE.

on to the Council, representing as they do the interests of Industrial Applications, of economic statistics and of the academic world respectively. We now consider who of those recently retired qualify for re-entry. Looking at those who retired last year I would strongly suggest that Campion, as the head of the Government statistical service, and D.J. Finney of Oxford should be invited to return. I do not see any strong claim from those who retired in 1951 or 1950, since the interests they represent are already very fully included in the Council as it is. The sixth name I think we ought to consider is undoubtedly that of Dr. Yates of whom I need say no more.

The summary of my thoughts on this question can be expressed as follows. To retire - Stone, Tippett, Hartley, Richardson, Starke and one other (whom I would be glad to see as Professor Devons). To come on the Council Miss Keen, Miss Cunliffe and Mr. Moser, none of whom have served before, plus Mr. Campion, Mr. Finney and Dr. Yates. I should, of course, greatly welcome your views on these proposals, which I must again emphasise are essentially my own although commanding the assent of Bradford Hill.

The last paragraph of your letter suggests that the President of the Royal Society has a curious view of our own Society. I am rather at a loss as to why he should feel that we are not scientifically developed, particularly since in 1951, and again in 1952, I forwarded a carefully prepared and informed memorandum on the work of the Society when asking for a substantial grant-in-aid from the Royal Society's Grant-in-Aid Publications fund. In these memoranda we emphasised the essential scientific character of modern statistics and this should have been evident from the copies of the Society's Journals which we sent to the Royal Society when asking for financial assistance. The fact that they granted this assistance in itself I should have imagined would provide some evidence of their acceptance of scientific content of statistics. Surely nobody could look at Series B, at any rate, and still imagine that we had a strong bias towards accountancy. May it not also be assumed that Fellowship of the Royal Society, of such as you yourself and Yates, would imply that statistics is something more than a form of commercial arithmetic.

Yours sincerely,



(R.E. George)  
Hon. Secretary

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY  
Council 1951-53. Attendances.

<u>Date of Election to Council</u>	<u>July-Feb. 1952/53</u> <u>6 mtgs.</u>	<u>Session 1951/52</u> <u>11 mtgs.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>17</u> <u>mtgs.</u>	
1944	Mr. J.R.N. Stone	1	3	4
1945	Mr. R.F. George (Hon.Sec.1948)	6	9	15
1947	Miss I. Douglas (Hon.Sec.1952)	4	6	10
"	Mr. Philip Lyle (Hon.Sec.1950)	1	8	9
1948	Mr. L.H.C. Tippett	-	3	3
"	Mr. E.C. Pieller	5	7	12
"	Dr. H.O. Hartley	5	10	15
1949	Professor M.S. Bartlett	-	-	-
"	Dr. W.R. Buckland	6	11	17
"	Professor J.H. Richardson	4	4	8
"	Mr. L.G.K. Starke	2	6	8
1950	Mr. R.F. Fowler (Hon.Treas.1950)	6	7	13
"	Dr. J.O. Irwin	5	6	11
"	Professor M.G. Kendall	1	8	9
"	Mr. F.A.A. Menzler	4	11	15
"	Mr. J. Ryan	1	4	5
"	Mr. A.W. Swan	5	6	11
"	Dr. J. Wishart	3	6	9
1951	Professor R.G.D. Allen	3	3	6
"	Sir George Maddex	6	7	13
"	Professor E. Devons	-	-	-
"	Mr. G.H. Jowett	1	3	4
"	Mr. L.T. Wilkins	5	7	12
1952	Mr. R. Glenday	3	-	3
"	Professor D.G. Champernowne	4	-	4
"	Mr. F.J. Anscombe	3	-	3
"	Professor G.A. Barnard	4	-	4
"	Mr. D. Newman	3	-	3
"	Mr. E.D. van Rest	6	-	6
"	Dr. W.P.D. Logan (app.July 1952)	2	-	2

Retired from Council 1950-52 and not subsequently re-elected

1952

- Sir Ronald Fisher (el. President)
- Professor E.S. Pearson
- Mr. H. Campion
- Dr. B.P. Dudding
- Mr. B. Benjamin
- Mr. D.G. Kendall
- Dr. D.J. Finney (res. owing to year's absence abroad)

1951

- Sir Henry Clay
- Mr. W. Manning Dacey
- Mr. D.J. Desmond
- Professor J.H. Jones
- Dr. A.H. Marshall) res. at
- Dr. P. Stocks ) own request

1950

- Dr. H.E. Daniels
- Mr. W.J. Jennett

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Composition of Council for 1953-54

The relevant extracts from the Bye-laws (13 and 14) and the resulting changes in the Council that are required are as follows:-

- (a) "The President shall not hold office as such for more than two consecutive sessions". Sir Ronald Fisher is eligible for re-election.
- (b) "The Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretaries shall not hold office as such for more than ten consecutive sessions". The present Honorary Officers are all eligible for re-election.
- (c) "Six of the ordinary members of the Council of any session shall not be eligible for immediate re-election; they shall be chosen by the Council, and shall include three of the members thereof who have served longest continuously on the Council".
- (d) "Two at least of the ordinary members of the Council elected at the close of every session shall not at any time have served on the Council".
- (e) "The Council shall not later than 31st January in every session call the attention of Fellows to the procedure set out below for the nomination and election of the Council and invite Fellows to make suggestions to the Council in regard to the composition of the Council for the ensuing session.

At its March meeting in every year the Council shall determine the six ordinary members of the Council who by Bye-law 13 are ineligible for immediate re-election and, after taking into account any suggestions received from Fellows not later than 28th February, shall determine the Fellows whom it recommends for election as the President, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretaries and other members of the Council for the ensuing session".

The requirement in the first paragraph of (e) above was twice fulfilled and the following suggestions from Fellows have been received (date of election of Fellow in brackets):

- ~~(1) Dr. G.H. Daniel (1946) proposed by Mr. R.F. George~~
- (1) Miss J. Keen (1946) proposed by Mr. A.W. Swan and Mr. E.D. *Miss Cudiffe*
- (2) *Mr. G.C. Fisher* van Rest

None

- (3) *Mr. Hovner* - proposed last year by Prof. H.P. Kendall (but agreed by the Council to stand over)