

Internationalism was one of the aspects that drew me to the project. Although it was not the "world" laboratory that I had worked toward after my Soviet trip of 1965?, large national laboratories, such as CERN, or Brookhaven, or Dubna, had started collaborations that did give them a strong international flavor. The sum of these efforts did represent a kind of world laboratory, and Fermilab was sure to play an important role in this development, Indeed, it might develop into such a center. At least, given my inclinations, I could play a role in what did happen.

Another reason for accepting the offer was that I felt a responsibility to do so out of loyalty to my friends in URA. When one works closely with a group toward an end, it is natural to identify with that group, to that end. The URA was that group, the project was that end. The project had become suddenly fragile, it could easily have been lost at that point. I had allowed events to suck me in deeper and deeper, from being almost totally disinterested in the project, to becoming a trustee of the URA, to becoming an

irresponsible critic, to a feeling that I really could do a good job, under suitable conditions, of building the Laboratory. I had made a lot of statements in my criticisms, now I faced the challenge of showing whether they were hot air or not.

The promise of the physics that might be discovered was perhaps the strongest attraction. I would no longer have the direct creative satisfaction of the research being done, but in deciding on the characteristics of the accelerator, i.e. on the energy of the protons or the intensity of the beams, and then making them come about, I would play a strong role in the experiments that could be done, not to mention in deciding which experiments would be done. In any case we would be working right on the edge of the unknown, a thrilling prospect for any physicist.

A very real attraction was that serious architecture would be involved in the new project. Looking at cathedrals in Europe had ignited a passion in me for architecture. I saw a close relationship, both historically and at present, between physics and architecture. I would at least be closer to that activity as a director responsible for turning a cornfield into what could be, would have to be, a beautiful endeavor.