

30 November 1970

Rolland Bushner
Council on Foreign Relations
58 East 68th Street
New York, New York 10021

Dear Bush,

First, we have received word here also of Dr. Brzezinski's being unable to come to speak. Evidentially Kearney State heard shortly after calling me last week. Now they're trying Marshall Shulman (and Galo Plaza).

Judd Polk
Second, those few words of evaluation on Judd Polk. Attendance was a disastrous 13 including the speaker; no guests. Part of the blame is mine, for not avoiding a night the Omaha Symphony was playing; but part of the trouble was having it on a Monday again. The local ~~de~~-Sell Club meets then, and some legal firms apparently hold planning meetings on Mondays. Plus the holiday, plus perhaps even the topic. But I had an unusual no-shows of "five." That may be a function of my sending out the notice some weeks in advance without a follow-up reminder.

Reactions were varied. The small, discussion group size appealed to several members and especially to the speaker, apparently. Chairman Umscheid was impressed by the speaker and not terribly upset by the small number. Everyone present asked at least one question and we ran the full time, which surprised me. One member left the meeting notice at his plate and had scrawled on it: "very poor speaker." Forensically, yes. But in terms of ideas, I was on the edge of my seat. I found Judd Polk an extremely thoughtful man, masterfully combining the theoretical with the practical. My enthusiasm was reinforced the following morning when he addressed a Creighton class on Comparative Economic Systems. They too were intrigued with his expansive thoughts and impressed by his explanations of conundrums they posed.

I really felt apologetic on behalf of the Committee to Mr. Polk, especially since I had suggested the topic he covered. It was particularly unfortunate that the bankers, all four of them, were out of town. Most of the questions dealt with trade because of members' unfamiliarity with international monetary questions.

Sincerely,