



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78712
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Department of Astronomy
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Mr. Charles H. Schauer
Executive Vice President
Research Corporation
405 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017


Dear Hap:

Thanks for your note of thanks concerning the question of Reber's support. I was glad to hear that his work can continue with your help. In a period of tight money there are many young lions who need support, but there are still some old ones with pretty sharp teeth. I believe Reber deserves continued support, partly for his promise of producing at least as much good research per dollar as any other man (indeed with perhaps a somewhat higher possibility--even at his age--of a breakthrough type of discovery); beyond this, he has earned continued respect and support for his past contributions. (Is there any hope of some kind of retirement annuity for such a maverick?)

I do hope that the ornery, lovable guy has subsided in his single-handed attempts to get Congress to cut the support of the national astronomy centers; any such efforts should be kept within the profession and the National Science Foundation, not as a public fight giving Congressmen a beautiful and much appreciated opportunity to cut support for astronomy across the board.

In a more general vein, five years ago it must have seemed that the federal government was going to take over a large part of the Research Corporation's reason for existence; now again your role has become pretty fundamental in the whole American research picture. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,


Harlan J. Smith

HJS:gc