

August 4th, 1954

Dear Schayler:

Your letter of July 26th arrived here yesterday. I'm sorry I haven't written since May 9th. Unfortunately nothing particularly interesting has occurred.

The situation about Ed Tweedie rather tickles me. If they now have a boy he will be in sorry shape with four big sisters! They better stick to girls.

No word has been received from the College or any other young man so the inquiries were probably just idle curiosity.

A couple of weeks ago I made a speech in Honolulu and showed a lot of slides of my installation here. At the end of the lecture various people talked to me about various things. One fellow from the Air Force had some pictures taken of my place which were quite good. I asked for some copies to make slides. He then informed me that I couldn't have any until I got cleared thru the security office to receive classified information as the pictures were all CONFIDENTIAL and they were so marked on the back!! I submit that we are going nuts!

The long discussion by Jean about the house in Wheaton is the best I've heard yet provided you insist on living in Wheaton. When you finally find out exactly what you are going to do, have Woodward draw up some papers and I will sign them. It all sounds good to me except for the business of holding on to the vacant lot after the house is moved. I'd like to liquidate that thing and I think you can use the money too so don't let any grass grow under your feet.

In regard to the Conn. Lt. & Pwr business I've found that those expiration dates don't mean anything. They are usually happy to pay off any amount up to a month or so afterward because they can't get their affairs in order due to people like me. If those warrants are still around please send them out here so that I can sign them. It is possible that something may still be salvaged.

This spring I hired a young Portuguese fellow who is considerably above average. He is a fairly competent operator so I am now getting much more data. However he, like most of the rest of the people here, has a vacuum between the ears and can't think. If the least little thing unexpected occurs or goes wrong he is lost. Thus he is better than nothing but that is all. I expect to use him until I leave in October.

I have a passport and a paid passage on the RMS ORION of the Orient Line leaving here on October 17th and arriving in Sydney on November 1st. Also I have a ruling of the Office of Foreign Trade stating that all my scientific apparatus is to go forward as personal property under the title of Tools of Trade. Apparently I have stumbled on a hole thru which anything could be shipped.

I'll write more later and hope your venture up to Union and Gary will come to an early fruition.

Best regards,

Grote