

14th July 1961
Bastille Day

Dear Hap:

From the enclosure of Jennie's it appears that radio astronomy in U.S.A. has gone into a tailspin. I'm not surprised, as in my opinion all the big dish projects were poorly conceived and badly executed. I've been careful not to be associated with any of them. Nevertheless, they are a source of some embarrassment to me here. I'm expected to answer questions like "How do these things happen in a country which has a reputation for efficiency?". The only answer I can provide is that "sugar draws flies". What the public may suspect but doesn't know is that the government is full of such blunders, carefully held under wraps of confidential or secret. Perhaps a bit of publicity will be a good thing in the long run. Kennedy really has no time to fuss around in Vienna, Laos and Cuba. He has plenty to do at home of a much more urgent nature.

Jennie lists ten companies on 6/14/61. The only ones I'm interested in are No. 2 & 3. The record arrived in good shape and was much appreciated. Thanks a lot. Please tell Al. Kelleher "thanks" for the clipping on Right Handed Growth. I've since found another variety of large Tasmanian bean which is pink with black markings. Next spring I'm going to plant some of these and see if they will do the same as the small Hawaiian bean which is brown with black streaks. Recently a small Morris car has come on the market. It has a little four cylinder engine perched crosswise over and slightly in front of the front axle. The engine crank shaft is parallel to the front axle. The car is front wheel drive and is going like hot cakes here. It may appear in U.S.A. soon. There isn't any other business here.

My poles are all cut and mostly barked. Presently, they lie up on the hillside under a blanket of snow. However, I can find other interesting things to do for the time being. Winter in Hobart is very mild compared to NYC. It rarely touches freezing here.

Best regards,

Grote

Grote Reber

P.S. I nearly forgot. Gordon Newstead who is professor of electrical engineering at University of Tasmania is now in England. He will probably be returning to Australia via U.S.A. early in August. If he contacts you on the way, please reply appropriately and if he shows up give him a glad hand and do for him what you can. I don't think he wants any money. He has been very good to me here and assisted in many ways.

G.R.