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July 22, 1957

Mr. James M. Mitchell
Associate Director
National Science Foundation
1520 H Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Jim:

On Friday, July 26, Lloyd Berkner will be in Washington for our radio astronomy affairs and for other purposes. Accordingly, we propose a schedule for the day similar to that employed successfully on another occasion, namely, that the NSF and AUI staff meet in your office at 9:30 a.m. to work out in as much detail as necessary the items on the agenda; that the discussions recess at noon, when the AUI staff will meet with Dr. Berkner to brief him of the radio astronomy affairs; and that everyone will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. in Dr. Waterman's office where our discussions may be summarized and clarified, if needed.

I am proposing to have everyone at AUI associated with radio astronomy activities come to Washington on July 26 -- L.R. Burchill, C.F. Dunbar, J.J. Carroll (our new engineer) and myself from New York, and J.W. Findlay, D.S. Heeschen, and M.L. Westman from Green Bank. I recognize the danger of slowing down an informal discussion if the number present grows too large, but this early in our activities I think it is important that all the AUI staff associate individuals at NSF, rather than names on pieces of paper, with the various problems. Also, as we will discuss on July 26, there will probably be no August meeting and it is, therefore, particularly important that everyone understand exactly what we are doing and why.

The following are items we would like to take up; many are rather simple matters that require only an understanding between appropriate members of the two staffs:

Revised Financial Plan: Separately, from Lew Burchill's office, we are forwarding this material. On July 30 we will have improved cost estimates on some of the construction, but we do not anticipate radical changes. We hope that by July 26 the FY 1958 total figure will be firm.

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140-foot Telescope: We will review the status of this program, including the schedule for receiving proposals and their review.

85-foot Telescope: As reflected in the financial plan, our decision has been to proceed as quickly as possible with the purchase of an 85-foot telescope. We will report on our examination of the two acceptable proposals for an 85-foot telescope.

Contract interpretation: Our contract provides that work will proceed at Green Bank subject to NSF approval of plans. It is clear that the financial plan should have such review. It is equally clear that the plan for remodelling the farm house and sheds on the first 10 acres acquired for the site did not warrant such review. We need to agree on the division point.

Carry over from grant activities: Prof. Ashton's work on the design of the 140-foot telescope was initiated and has been carried as part of the study grant activities. It appears that several hundred dollars of contract money may be needed to complete this work, for which approval is needed because Prof. Ashton has been billing us on a time and materials basis.

October Meeting at Green Bank: Status Report.

Since you may have other items for discussion on Friday, I will leave the final agenda to you.

Sincerely yours,

RME

Richard M. Emberson
Assistant to the President

cc: L.R. Burchill
C.F. Dunbar
M.L. Westman

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