

July 25, 1962

Notes on NRAO Directorship - for I. I. Rabi
Summary of Ideas from Conversations with Trustees and
Discussions at the AUI Executive Committee Meeting on 7/20/62

Dave Heeschen

- 1) Best available U.S. candidate is Heeschen - quoted from Purcell.
- 2) Impressed by way he has taken over - quiet, effective, forceful - general concensus. New hires are good.
- 3) His research is solid. (Purcell, Whitford - Goldberg and Weaver were absent)
- 4) NRAO needs a Director - not an Acting Director, or a sick Director.

Dave is available! - Tape opinion.

5) Dave is 100% for the single installation, i.e. laboratories and observing station together. This is good now; if he can't make it work then a ~~good~~ split operation is really needed. In the hands of a Director who already believes in the split operation, there will be no chance of proving that the single installation will work. - Tape opinion.

- 6) His youth and vigor were recognized.- General concensus.

Hanbury Brown

- 1) Probably #1 non-U.S. choice of Trustees who knew him.
- 2) Probably unavailable - but we should try.
 - a) Has year or two commitment in Australia.
 - b) Probably wedded to U.K. program and wouldn't come to U.S.
- 3) Bacher tried to get him at Cal Tech without success.

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Paul Wilde

- 1) Excellent choice.
- 2) Has 2-3 years ahead of him for construction of big array in Australia.
Doubt if he would leave.
- 3) Goldberg (by phone) told me Wilde had recently refused U.S. professorship at 3 times Australian salary.
- 4) Because he is an "instrument man" Wilde would be good addition to NRAO either as Director or staff man.

Van der Hulst

- 1) Good name in the field.
- 2) Goldberg (by phone) says that reason for his leave from Leiden is to get away from administrative and committee jobs; therefore NRAO Directorship might not be attractive.
- 3) Some Trustees believe Van der Hulst is slated to replace Oort at Leiden and wouldn't leave the Netherlands.
- 4) Some concern expressed that Van der Hulst would be a classical European Director. This is not good for an American National Lab having visiting researchers.
- 5) Dave Heeschen expressed a lack of enthusiasm at Green Bank for Van der Hulst as Director. (Van der Hulst is more of an individual research man rather than a leader; not many well known students, etc. I can't comment on these remarks.)

Note - The AUI Board recommended that we sound out NRAO staff on their recommendations including their feelings on Dave Heeschen.

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