

25th January 1960

Dear Hap:

Thanks for your good letter of the 15th. Findlay and the Loran equipment are a good example of a civil servant grasping for an excuse to do nothing. I made the request as a small item at the end of a letter to Struve last november. Apparently Struve passed it on to Findlay for action. The latter takes the well worn line of talking about some irrelevant subject. Knowing Findlay and the setup at Green Bank, this does not surprise me. I suggest that you reply to Findlay in the following manner:---

Regarding the Loran equipment we understand that Mr. Reber requested this for use at Green Bank in a letter to Dr. Struve last November. Apparently, Mr. Reber feels that NRAO is in a very favorable position to secure this equipment because of the wide variety of current government lists available, plus the capable purchasing agents who are conversant with the ramifications of government stores and procurement. Mr. Reber informs us that he will be at Green Bank again in April or May and hopes to use portions of the Loran equipment soon upon his return. Your assistance and aid in expediting the procurement will be greatly appreciated by both Mr. Reber and ourselves. We believe the above to be in agreement with an undertaking given by Dr. Emberson two years ago. He states that NRAO will carry out the procurement of such things as Mr. Reber desires at Green Bank. Upon location of the Loran equipment, please advise the writer if there are any costs involved, so that we may act appropriately.

If you see fit to handle the matter as above, please be sure to send a copy to Dr. Otto Struve, Director. This will let Struve know what is going on and allow him to prod Findlay. Otherwise, Findlay will just sit somemore. Top price for one surplus Loran, I estimate as 500 dollars. They should be had for free to NRAO.

During the past couple of weeks, I've been rather on vacation here. However, I dug up the cable at Johnson Valley. It was somewhat damaged and not safe to lay in the ground again, but may be used for other purposes such as delay lines. The value was about \$450 four years ago, so it was worth salvaging even tho slightly damaged.

Bill Ellis, who I first worked with here in 1954 & 5, is now with CSIRO at Camden, near Sydney. He is down here on vacation as both his and his wifes folks are Tasmanians. We have been figuring out other ways of exploiting the favorable environment here and have located another good site at Bothwell which is 20 miles northwest of Kempton. Bill thinks he can get transferred back to Hobart and obtain at least part of the equipment money. I'd like to go along with this and secure a part in it with some Research Corp. money along about 1961 or 2. Bill will be back in Sydney soon and feel out the matter there. If all goes well, I should have further details in a month or so. Actually, there is more good work possible here than he and I can both carry out. Favorable radio astronomy conditions seem to be one of the unexploited natural resources of this part of the world.

Recently I accepted an invitation to give the Henry Norris Russell lecture at the astronomical convention in Mexico City next August. Is is supposed to be a great honor. I hope the honor is commensurate with the effort in preparing the talk.

Please remember me to Bill Hinkley and All Kelleher.

Best regards,

Grote
Grote Reber