

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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February 21, 1961

Dr. George W. Swenson, Jr.
Department of Electrical Engineering
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Dr. Swenson:

In accordance with your note of February 17, we shall plan to have a meeting of the Advisory Committee at Green Bank in the middle of April. Will you please let Dr. Emberson know whether he should make any travel arrangements for the members of the Committee. We shall be glad to have this meeting quite informal, without presentations by staff members but providing time for personal discussions among the committee members and members of our staff.

With regard to the committee, of which Dr. Whitford is the chairman: This is the radio astronomy subcommittee of the AUI Board of Trustees. The Board has three members-at-large who are astronomers. They are Drs. Whitford, Goldberg and Weaver. All three, plus Dr. Floe of MIT and Dr. Rabi of Columbia University constitute the Trustees radio astronomy committee. As far as I know, there has always been such a subcommittee since the AUI became involved in the Radio Astronomy Observatory. Whitford, Weaver and Floe spent a day in Green Bank about a month ago, together with Dr. Haworth. The Committee reported back to the full Board of Trustees in an executive session. I have not been informed of their recommendations.

In addition to this committee, there is at present in existence still another committee, headed by Dr. Augustus B. Kinzel of the Union Carbide Corporation in New York, who was asked by Dr. Alan Waterman to advise the NSF with regard to the procedure that should be used in connection with the construction of the large spherical bearing for the 140-foot radio telescope. Dr. Kinzel's committee has met several times in New York, and some of its members have been at Canton, Ohio, and have seen the parts of the bearing in the Bliss Company shop. The Committee has reported to the Science Foundation and has recommended a procedure which they believe is feasible and consistent with the specifications. I was not asked to attend any of the meetings of the Kinzel committee, except for part of one session in December, and I was only indirectly informed of the procedure that has been recommended.

Before Dr. Lloyd Berkner turned over to Dr. Haworth the office of the presidency of AUI, he had arranged with Mr. Edward Reynolds of Harvard University to study the contractual relations between AUI and the Bliss Company. Both Dr. Haworth and Mr. Reynolds have spent a large amount of time in various discussions with the Bliss Company representatives in trying to reach a satisfactory

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solution, and I believe that they will continue doing so until this difficult problem has been solved.

The continuing delays and complications have, of course, been a source of great discouragement to me and to the scientific staff of the Observatory. I shall be glad to provide additional information at the time of the meeting, or in advance of it if you wish.

Very sincerely yours,

Otto Struve

CC: Messrs. Burchill, Emberson, Callender, Heeschen, Findlay

P.S. I have just learned from Professor Bengt Strömgren that he is arranging a conference at the Institute for Advanced Study on "Problems of the Distribution and Motion of Interstellar Matter in Galaxies," April 11 to 14 and 17 to 19. He has asked me to participate and he may invite one or two of the other Green Bank astronomers. I therefore suggest that the meeting of the Advisory Committee be set either just before the Princeton conference or perhaps during the last week of April.

O.S.