

12th September 1960  
Green Bank, West Virginia

Mr. J. William Hinkley  
Research Corporation  
405 Lexington Avenue  
New York 17, New York

Dear Bill:

Thanks for your good letter of the 7th. In accordance therewith, I have executed the assignment which is returned herewith. If you can do anything with it, I'll be glad to give to Research Corporation whatever funds may be forthcoming. If this happens to be more than Research Corporation has done for me, I'll be very pleased.

I have never tried to sell this patent to Collins or anyone else. My only correspondence with Collins was one letter by me to Mr. Roger Pierce of Collins during spring or summer 1958. I never received a reply. This letter and his previous letter to me are in one of my cases now at Bound Brook. I can fish these out later in the month, if you wish.

The radio sextant program at Collins dates from before the patent was issued, perhaps 1947. However I have some interesting correspondence with National Inventors Council on the matter back to about 1944 or 43. This I can also produce. The last may be in Wheaton, Illinois however.

I believe the Collins machine is an exact copy of one of my ideas which was published in Life Magazine about March or April 1948. They may have used the article as basis of their design. Unfortunately, I didn't get around to patenting this special case as the original patent seemed quite broad.

Collins are the only people I know of who are working on the matter in this country. There may be others overseas. I have heard stories about Collins radio sextants with dishes twenty feet diameter being mounted on cruisers, etc.; altho I've never seen one. In any case, I have a hunch that over the past dozen years the total contracts from the Navy received by Collins for radio sextant design, etc. amounts to upwards of five million dollars. About 1955 Fred Haddock of NRL (now University of Michigan) gave a short report before some engineering society. Perhaps I can get a copy from Fred if you wish. The above is about all I know as I have never seen anything published and I feel that most of the literature is called secret.

I've been stalling around down here to try and get my dish put together properly. The local help is of such caliber that without minute and detailed instructions plus constant supervision, either nothing is done, or done very wrong. It now looks like the end of the month before we're finally finished. Actually the interest in this job by the management only took shape about ten days ago. Apparently the reason the management is now anxious to get my dish finished is a Trustees meeting in early October. It is the only thing they will have to show the Trustees which they did not see last year.

I'll be in NYC for a few days before leaving for the southern hemisphere. See you and Hap then.

73, (best regards)

*Grote*  
Grote Reber

*at Bull Geo. Soc. Sept 59*