

MOUNT STROMLO OBSERVATORY

RESEARCH SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL SCIENCES
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Dr. Reber

PROFESSOR B. J. BOK
Department of Astronomy
Telephone: Mt. Stromlo 511
Telegram: Solarob.

16th September 1965

MOUNT STROMLO
CANBERRA
A.C.T.

Dr. Harold H. Lane,
Assistant Programme Director
for Astronomy,
National Science Foundation,
Washington 25, D.C. USA.

Dear Harold,

As you know, we have at present in Australia as a much-appreciated distinguished visitor Grote Reber, who is working on a project sponsored by the Research Corporation of New York. He is present in Tasmania, where he is doing very important research on low-frequency radiation from our Galaxy. I visited Dr. Reber some months ago and we hope shortly to have him come as a visitor and guest speaker to Mount Stromlo Observatory.

Quite recently he showed me his Proposal to The NSF, which is for a Design Study to cost approximately \$9000. He told me that the original application was submitted just about one year ago and that there has since been some sparse correspondence between you and him, but that as yet he has not heard definitely whether or not the Proposal had been approved. I told him that I would write to him to inquire, and I am doing so herewith.

I realise that it is not my business to comment on the merits of this Proposal, but I do think that I should make two points in a letter to you. The first is that Grote Reber is truly one of the great men of science of our age, and many years after the rest of us will all be dead people will remember him as the person who almost single handed carried the torch for radio astronomy during the 1930's and early 40's, and as the man who prepared the first radio map of our Milky Way. The second point is that it is quite obvious that from the work now being done by Reber in Tasmania that he has lost none of his vigour and competence in exploring new and untouched fields, and I can think of few living scientists today who can boast of greater inventive achievements than can Grote Reber. In other words, I would consider any Proposal originating with Reber as deserving almost automatic approval, and this should be especially the case when a Design Study is contemplated of as modest dimensions as the present one.

I am dictating this letter just before leaving on a very quick trip around the world, principally for the purpose of looking at possible designs for a 150-inch Reflector, which, we hope, may come into being soon as the result of British-Australian cooperation. I shall therefore ask my secretary to sign this letter in my absence.

With best greetings to my friends at NSF,
Very sincerely yours,

Bart J. Bok, Director