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NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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December 6, 1994

Dr. Grote Reber
Michel Street
Bothwell, Tasmania
Australia 7030

Dear Grote;

Thanks for your letter. Last week, together with Hein Hvatum, Fred Crews, George Grove and others we began look through the materials you sent. With the exception of one broken meter face on a large power supply, there was no damage. It was exciting seeing all the old radio gear as well as your correspondence and records from the early years. What do you think about trying to make the radio astronomy equipment operational? Rich Bradley, one of our engineers, who is also a ham, is interested in doing this.

Rich, (WB4DZC) Hein, (N4FWA) and I, (K2AOE) were especially interested in the ham radio gear, the logs and the old QSL cards. John Krauss has claimed that you got interested in radio astronomy through your amateur radio attempts to receive transmissions reflected from the moon, but as I recall you have denied this. Is that correct?

I was interested in your correspondence with Southworth on locating Jansky's notes. Recently, a colleague at Bell Labs located one of Jansky's notebooks. I have a xerox copy which I can send to you if you are still interested. It covers the period 1928-1937 but disappointingly, I could not find any reference to the cosmic radio noise work. Karl's son, David, was recently in Charlottesville. He is looking forward to meeting you at the time of your visit in the spring.

I have inquired of a friend who works in the Pentagon about your request, but I did not get any encouragement. I will try some other approaches, but I will need more information. As I understood from your earlier letter you want to put about 100 kg of H₂ about 200 km into the ionosphere. I don't think you need an ICBM class rocket to do this; a smaller one would probably be satisfactory. I don't understand exactly what you are trying to do. Do you want to determine the temperature of the radio sky at 600 meters? Are there not measurements made from space at these wavelengths? I have read in a recent issue of the New Scientist that your experiment is related to your cosmological theory, but I don't understand the connection. Please explain,

With best wishes for the holidays and for your 83rd birthday. You are 1 year younger than my mother who is also still going strong. I hope that is a good indicator of my future!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken".

Ken Kellermann