

October 30, 1956

Mr. Paul A. Scherer, Executive Officer
Carnegie Institution of Washington
1530 P Street, N.W.
Washington 5, D.C.

Dear Paul:

I enjoyed our phone talk very much the other day, even though you had me backed into an uncomfortable corner on the Shibata matter. I don't know if I had extricated myself at all from it, let alone doing so gracefully, but I have at least tossed the ball back at Bill.

A recent communique from Grete Boher suggests that I mention a part of his observation to you when I happen to see you. I quote: "Finally there is the phenomenon of precipitation static as distinguished from atmospheric. Precipitation static is a coarse frying noise associated with rain, snow and hail. There is not any thunder or lightning. This year continues to be an exceedingly wet one with a lot of storms sweeping in out of the southwest. At times precipitation static reaches fantastic levels even before a rain drop or snow flake comes down. These great occurrences are beyond anything I've ever encountered elsewhere. The field strength at 520kc are on the order of a volt per meter. This obliterates all broadcast stations. Fortunately, such affairs only happen a couple of times a month and last for only an hour or less. However, the lesser cats of the same breed are very frequent and ruin about half of the recordings. During the day they may only be heard for a few miles but at night they must have some effect if they occur anywhere in Tasmania. This precipitation static is really the limiting feature of the whole investigation. Last year was quite dry and the few records obtained then did not show any such difficulty. Fortunately, every rain storm does not make precipitation static. In any case, I've gotten the wireless branch of

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the FNO and the Weather Bureau interested so something may come out of this bother yet. After encountering a couple of great occurrences and noting the details, I'm convinced that precipitation static is the source of the radio waves from Jupiter discovered by the Carnegie fellows. You might mention this to Scherer when you see him."

Reber sounds fairly excited for him and, while he states that the future is quite vague, he contradicts himself by going on with an intention to elucidate several items which are part of his excitement. Accordingly, he is busily at work building some more electronic apparatus for a 170 kc natural resonance his antennas appear to have, in addition to figuring on a couple more months on the 520kc range.

Hope you'll be able to stop in next time you come to the metropolis as there are a few things which we might have some fun kicking around, aside from Shibata.

Best wishes,

Charles H. Schauer

CHS:JE