

RESEARCH CORPORATION

405 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17

J. WILLIAM HINKLEY

PRESIDENT

September 7, 1960

Mr. Grote Reber
c/o National Radio Astronomy Observatory
P. O. Box 2
Green Bank, West Virginia

Dear Grote:

We have spent some time studying your Patent No. 2,519,603 on a "Navigational Instrument" and have come to the preliminary conclusion that we might be able to do something with it. A lot depends on the present state of the art and the present embodiment of the broad idea, but we feel it is well worth careful study and investigation and discussion with potential infringers, such as your friends at Collins Radio.

In order for us to do anything effectively along these lines, it will be necessary that the patent be assigned to us. Without an assignment that gives us title to the patent we cannot, of course, effectively negotiate with prospective licensees. I am therefore enclosing an assignment form which I hope you will be willing to execute and return.

We have never discussed the disposition of any income that might be derived from the patent -- a matter of some importance in connection with the assignment of title which I suggested above. I don't know what ideas you have in this respect, but I can outline some of the limitations under which we operate and the manner in which we usually handle such matters. In the first place, our charter restricts us from paying over to any individual for his personal gain more than a minor share of the income that might be realized. As a general rule-of-thumb this has been from twenty-five to thirty-five percent of the gross income, depending on the circumstances. If the inventor wishes some of the remaining income to go to an educational or scientific institution of his choice, an additional twenty or twenty-five percent of the gross

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income can be so earmarked. The balance, of course, goes into our general funds for the support of our grants programs. If you would let me know your thoughts on this score, I am sure we could draw up a satisfactory agreement to cover the disposition of any hoped-for royalties along these general lines.

In connection with our proposed attempts to license the patent, two things would be very helpful to us. One would be a copy of the letter that you wrote to Collins Radio or, if that is not available, the approximate date of the letter and, if you recall, the name of the individual to whom it was addressed. Secondly, we would appreciate any references you might be able to give us to current literature on the present state of the applications of your invention. Any articles of this general nature to which you could give us a reference would be very helpful.

I hope we will have a chance to see you before you leave for the Southern Hemisphere. If this is possible and you wish to discuss personally some of the questions raised in this letter, that would be entirely appropriate.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



J. W. Hinkley

JWH:mm

Enclosure - Assignment