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Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Archives and Records Office	
Records Series Title	<u>LBL Life Sciences Division</u>
	<u>R&amp;D Administrative Files</u>
Accession No.	<u>434-90-0236</u>
File Code No.	<u>73-11-26</u>
Carton No.	<u>26/30</u>
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Found By	<u>John Stoner</u>
Date	<u>Copied 7-21-94</u>

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BERKELEY: DIVISION OF MEDICAL PHYSICS

September 12, 1975

Dr. Andrew M. Sessler  
Director  
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory  
Building 50A

Dear Andy:

After considerable thought, I have decided to inform you that I am resigning from the Donner Laboratory Program Advisory Committee and the Donner Director Search Committee, effective immediately. My reasons for doing this are two: 1) I find my duties and responsibilities as Chairman of Medical Physics during the coming year will be of such a magnitude that I must reduce my obligations in other areas. Also, I found during the past year that it was extremely difficult on many occasions to balance my loyalties to both the University and LBL, and I do not want to continue with this difficult role. 2) I have despaired that a solution to Donner's problems can be found by a continuation of the search for a new director (with the continued administration by PAC during the interim). That we have been unable to find a director in 14 months suggests to me serious problems in the organizational structure of Donner. Perhaps the fact "Donner" in reality is a highly fragmented unit -- geographically and scientifically -- contributed to some of the denials. Also, the "town and gown" problems associated with non-faculty and faculty staff caused concern to some of the applicants. These problems still exist and will continue to exist.

PAC has not been an effective way of running the laboratory. Unfortunately, we have had to spend too much time dealing with crises and too little discussing new problems and directions. Additionally, most of us, for one reason or another, appear to be in the role of advocates for this or that program or individual rather than for the laboratory as a whole. This has been unfortunate.

I would like to suggest a possible solution to our present situation. Biology and Medicine staff are now located in at least 6 locations; Donner, Cowell Pavilion, Bldgs. 74, 29, 10, and 55. From my vantage point at least, interaction between staff in these different buildings is minimal. Most of the scientific staff in Donner (Bldg. 1) now are members of Medical Physics. Rather than trying to retain Biology and Medicine as a division of LBL, I now believe it would be better to integrate the various segments of this Division into other Divisions (e.g. Chemical Biodynamics, Energy and Environment, Accelerator). This act might serve to strengthen these Divisions as well as the programs now housed in Biology and Medicine. Medical Physics as an academic unit should be separated from dependence on LBL; I have already proposed this to the Berkeley Campus. Any faculty who wanted to continue their association with LBL could do so by mutual consent. This change would benefit those faculty whose research, even though outstanding, is no longer of interest to the ERDA mission. It should also help to reduce some of the friction created by the faculty-non-faculty staff situation. Even though not a member of PAC, I will be pleased to offer what assistance I can in any future resolution of the Donner problems.

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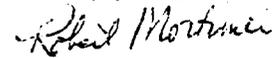
DONNER LAB  
WORK REPORTS  
1976 PAC

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If you decide to seek a replacement for me on these committees I would like to suggest Howard Mel, Alex Nichols, or Robert Glaeser, as possible candidates.

Sincerely yours,



Robert K. Mortimer

cc: Prof. David Templeton  
 Dean Frederick Carpenter  
 Dr. James Born  
 Dr. John Schooley

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