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PER DOC REVIEW JAN. 1973

March 28, 1942

Dr. A. H. Compton

VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

JA Brown 11-6-TSM 12/1/93

Herbert L. Anderson

Metal powder from Alexander

1981

In his letter of March 24, 1942 to you, Mr. Alexander indicates that the transportation of fifty pounds of powdered metal would present considerable difficulty. It is hard to believe that it would really be necessary to send the material by private car to Chicago. Apparently he has not as yet received the steel bomb which we sent to him. If this steel bomb were filled with metal powder, sealed, and then packed in a box surrounded on all sides with several inches of sand, it would be difficult to understand why, even if combustion did take place, any serious consequences would ensue. I hesitate to recommend that transportation by private car be resorted to.

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I prefer to attempt to prepare my own metal by mixing the oxide with calcium or calcium hydride, and heating the mixture in my vacuum furnace. Since the temperature which can be obtained is considerably higher than the melting point of the metal, I should be able to prepare the molten metal directly. The calcium oxide should float to the surface of the melt. If this plan should prove successful, I will have no need for the metal powder, and the method may prove to be a more desirable means of preparing metal lumps on a large scale.

I should be very much interested in obtaining one or two of Alexander's fused ingots which I should like to try and remelt in my furnace.

Herbert L. Anderson

CC Mr. Doan

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*[Handwritten signature]*

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