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April 15, 1953

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Dr. Ralph Cheney
Consultant on Manpower
Radiation Laboratory
Atomic Energy Commission
University of California

Dear Doctor Cheney:

As you have [illegible] that I am writing the contribution to Dr. John W. [illegible] to the Radiation Laboratory.

The statements that comprise Gofman's Deferment File have particularly [illegible] his outstanding [illegible] for accomplishments—in the part in nuclear chemistry and [illegible] in the field of medical physics, especially with regard to the study of [illegible] and their [illegible] upon medical problems. Those of us who have written evaluations of his contribution have especially placed our emphasis upon his recent personal contribution to [illegible] that we have [illegible] overlooked mentioning his great [illegible] laboratory in other ways (this was [illegible] in a letter from Dr. John W. Lawrence to Dr. Charles Dunham, [illegible] 1953, [illegible]). It is possible that among some groups Gofman has become credited [illegible] for research on [illegible] or [illegible] clerosis."

Review of Gofman's responsibility in the Radiation Laboratory:

(1) It has been previously documented that Gofman obtained distinction [illegible] nuclear chemist. He is [illegible] regarded in this [illegible] of chemists [illegible] authority on certain [illegible] of thorium, uranium, and the rare [illegible]. Because of his knowledge of these chemical properties, pro-[illegible], and the [illegible] of work with [illegible] materials, Gofman, since his return to the Radiation Laboratory from medical training, has been [illegible] on the laboratory's health protection groups on the [illegible] of these great hazards. While the record of this laboratory is excellent with regard to [illegible] accidents, it is more than likely that serious accidents will occur because, in spite of the precaution taken, they have occurred in [illegible] all of the other laboratories and in the most unanticipated ways. Gofman's services must be regarded to be of the utmost significance not only in the prevention of serious accidents but also, in the event of a [illegible] providing so unusually skilled [illegible] with understanding of the composite problem on the highest level of competency. Obviously, it is job of health protection has a number of essential [illegible] people, but Gofman's role here is at a different level. As you know, he is currently making a minute evaluation of the Project Whitney site, and this is [illegible] and [illegible] takes priority over all of his other [illegible] in the laboratory.

[illegible]

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[illegible] April [illegible], 1953

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from it pertaining to an understanding of biochemical changes in lipoprotein [illegible] in severe irradiation damage. The pursuit of this problem is as significant as any work can be toward the understanding of irradiation damage and the [illegible] of cancer [illegible].

Finally, I should like to say that this laboratory cannot retain its [illegible] through much longer at this level. In a laboratory [illegible] problems of national importance, [illegible] of individual personnel [illegible] scientific purposes. I hope there can be some [illegible] on the national level to protect us and to prevent the tremendous dissipation of energies of young people in [illegible] positions who have yet to [illegible] their different positions.

[illegible] we have been drained already by the recent losses to military service of Drs. Theodore Prentice (M.D.), [illegible] Lewis (Ph.D.), and [illegible] Van Dyke (M.D.), all brilliant young scientists. Van Dyke had succeeded in the establishment of the existence of the hormone that controls the formation of the red blood cells, a discovery still requiring his efforts to [illegible] to the point where others take over. Dr. Van Dyke is now delivering [illegible] in the Air Corps and is one of the most promising young [illegible] he will [illegible] irradiation and [illegible] until he can return to civilian life again. Dr. Prentice has been well placed at Walter Reed Hospital.

I may have strayed [illegible] to get down some full thoughts.

Sincerely,

Hardin B. Jones,
Assistant Director.