

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

729658

R

RADIATION LABORATORY
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

OPERATING UNDER THE SUPERVISION
OF THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

REPLYING TO YOUR REFERENCE:

September 6, 1944

Professor Ernest O. Lawrence
Physics Department
University of California
Berkeley, California

Classification Cancelled
Date 2-24-74
For the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
J. S. [Signature]
Division of Classification

Dear Ernest:

You doubtless know where Professor Cockcroft is now located and how his appointment came about. For the past two months, Cockcroft has urged me to ask McGill University to set up the cyclotron and small radiation laboratory as planned before the war. Under the proposed scheme, the establishment would then be regarded as a McGill Group under N. R. C. and would receive support from Canadian public funds.

I saw Dean Mackenzie, President of the National Research Council during my holidays and asked him whether he could arrange for me to see you or Professor Bohr in order to become acquainted with at least some aspects of a great development which has proceeded in secret. He said such talks would be difficult or impossible to arrange.

McGill is therefore asked to proceed on the following advice: Oliphant says one would be crazy to build a cyclotron at this time, while Chadwick via Cockcroft favours the immediate construction. Of course, this matter has nothing to do with the war so far as I can see. In view of the fact that I began to build up a small school of reasonably good physicists twenty years before these most distinguished English gentlemen arrived in Montreal, I am embarrassed no end with the thought that they should lay out diametrically opposite courses for my use of Canadian funds in a development of Canadian resources.

My elder son is in Italy after two years at Harvard Radio Research. He puts Harvard gear in planes and spends some time as copilot of a B-17. The younger boy has been at Harvard Underwater Sound for a little more than a year, and expects to be called into the U. S. Navy next week. As you probably know, the boys are U. S. citizens.

REC'D SEP 11 1944

1257804

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

44-34

ATION LABORATORY

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SHEET NO. 2

Professor Ernest O. Lawrence

September 5, 1944

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

My own work has gone very well indeed, though it is a constant source of amazement to me that I do anything with radio. The main thing has been a strictly linear rapid scanner good for large angles of scan without optical approximations. It is to be used in automatic form for anti-aircraft fire control on U. S. shipboard and for observation of shell splash in the British Navy. The Canadian Army is interested in the continuous observation of shell trajectories by a form which scans sixty times per second.

With the boys away, the coming year is the only one I can foresee in which I might possibly arrange to go into war work anywhere. I may stay here to get some production out to sea, but at the present stage of designs, I do not honestly think the men would fail to produce the goods without me. Professor Loomis would not like to see a change, I am sure, but if you see an opening for me with a military aspect, quite likely the transfer could be arranged. Such a contact would enable me to make a smooth transition into a post-war programme at McGill in which I hope some of my old students may be able to take a prominent part.

With best regards to your wife and to Berkeley friends, I am

Yours sincerely,

Stuart

Stuart Foster

JSF:MF

1257010

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

September 22, 1944

Dr. Stuart Foster
Radiation Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Stuart:

I was very glad to hear from you, and as Oliphant was here, I asked him "how come." I find he does agree that it would be very much worth while to build a cyclotron at McGill, and he is going to write you his thoughts on the subject.

As regards your last paragraph, I would not want to urge you to leave Cambridge and join in some work in which I am involved, as that would be regarded by my friend Wheeler as no less than treason. However, I need hardly say that you would be extremely welcome if you should decide to join us, and I can assure you there is plenty to do and there would be a good place for you, either here or elsewhere.

I was at the Radiation Laboratory in Cambridge for a day several months ago, and I had planned to see you, but got involved in sightseeing and committee meetings all day long, and suddenly realized it was time to run for the train. However, I do hope to get up to Boston again some time this fall, and if you are still there I will certainly this time make it a point to drop in for a visit.

Very cordially,

Ernest O. Lawrence

EOL:BM

1257811

7
7/25/44

RADIATION LABORATORY
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASSACHUSETTS

OPERATING UNDER THE SUPERVISION
OF THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

REPLYING TO YOUR REFERENCE:

Sept 21. 1944

Dear Ernest,

Since I sent you a letter about two weeks ago the Principal of McGill University - has asked me to come to Montreal. In our talk he agreed to a sufficiently attractive programme and has asked me to come back about Nov 1st.

If you are near here anytime before Nov 1st will you please give me a call?

Best regards to your wife + Berkeley friends

Yours sincerely

J. S. Foster.

Dear Stuart:

I'm glad to hear an attractive program is being set up for you at McGill, and I may get up to Boston before you leave and certainly will look forward to seeing you
Cordially

REC'D SEP 25 1944

125 1812

September 26, 1944

J. S. Foster
Radiation Laboratory
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

Dear Stuart:

I'm glad to hear an attractive program is being set up for you at McGill. I may get up to Boston before you leave and certainly will look forward to seeing you.

Cordially,

Ernest O. Lawrence

JG

1257013