

July 10, 1940

Dr. Warren Weaver  
Rockefeller Foundation  
49 West 49th Street  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Professor Weaver:

Thank you very much for your letter of May 23. I also wish to thank you for so kindly receiving me while I was in New York in spite of the fact that you had to do this while in a hospital bed. I sincerely trust that you are entirely recovered.

Since returning to Ames I have been able to arrange to keep work on my machine going during the summer. I have an excellent assistant spending his full time on the construction and we are making real progress. Now we are far enough along to make me rather certain that we have not made important errors in design or construction. At the time that I saw you in New York there was one matter that worried me a little in spite of some rather successful preliminary experiments. Now we have resolved this potential difficulty and my mind is almost without inhibitions about the ultimate success of the device. The construction work is of course only well under way but we have tried to build or at least test the tricky or new parts of the machine first.

Accordingly I am taking your advice and am making a formal request for assistance to both the Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning and to the Research Corporation. I am attaching copies of both requests. You will note that I am using your name in the way you so generously offered to have me do. Do you think these requests should be amplified in any way? The college officials here assure me that they will do all they can to help me secure assistance. Shall I ask them to write letters or otherwise support these requests? Please do me the kindness to give me any further suggestions that may come to mind.

I should like very much to be remembered to Mrs. Weaver. Mrs. Atanasoff and I frequently remind each other of the enjoyable occasions on which we were guests in your home at Madison.

Very sincerely yours,

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John V. Atanasoff  
Associate Professor of  
Mathematics and Physics

JVA:bjs