

June 19, 1940

Dr. R. M. Bowie  
Hygrade Sylvania Corp.  
Emporium, Pa.

Dear Bob:

I am glad that you shipped the tubes as you stated in your letter of June 14th. There was really no misunderstanding about the price. What your company received was an order from the purchasing department here--not a request for quotations. This order, as is usual in such cases, did not contain any price. I suppose your sales office did not realize that a special quotation had been made for this order and did not wish to honor this purchase except through the usual channels. When Mr. Young, from H. E. Sorenson Co., called me I did not have your quotation at hand and so was merely using my memory in regard to your quotation. So you see there has been no misunderstanding really and no error committed except our purchasing office's failure to mention the quotation in placing the order.

Work on the computing machine as proceeded in a way that is very gratifying. Although we are still designing as well as building, the details of design for most of the machine are completed and a large fraction of these details have been tested in natural operation. Perhaps half of actual construction on the machine has been completed. During the summer, I have been having a full time assistant, Mr. Berry, who worked as half-time research assistant on the project last year. He combines in a way that I have scarcely observed before, a high degree of mental dexterity and manipulative skill with a keen theoretical understanding. When the machine is completed its full complement of vacuum tubes will number 300 or more and so you may expect another order of tubes of about the same size during the next year. If this machine is manufactured in any considerable number, the tube and condenser manufacturers stand to do a good business.

Perhaps you know that I have engaged in a real estate enterprise myself. At one time I owned 22 lots comprising most of a city block. When I purchased this property, the entire block was empty but now there are four finished houses including my own and three more are under construction on this land. These houses range in value from 6000 to 9000.



During the spring months I spend two weeks in  
Washington and New York but a pressing agenda prevented me from  
doing what I much desired to do, i. e., to pay you a visit in  
Emporium.

Please convey my regards to Mrs. Bowie.

Yours very truly

J. V. Atanasoff  
Assoc. Prof. of Physics and  
Mathematics

JVA-mb