

July 26, 1941

Mr. G. D. O'Neill
Hygrade Sylvania Corporation
Loring Avenue
Salem, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Thank you for the copy of your paper, "The Effects of Contact Potentials on Vacuum Tube Characteristics." It contains exactly the information which we needed, not only for the computing machine project but for some other work we are doing as well.

When you were here, you gave us a definite procedure designed to decrease and stabilize the contact potential difference between grid and cathode. I would be glad to receive these instructions in writing, as we are somewhat vague in regard to a point or two. Is the change in contact potential difference due to the evaporation of cathodic materials or to the grid?

We are preparing to treat each vacuum tube in the computing device according to the plan you outlined.

Very sincerely yours,

J. V. Atanasoff
Assoc. Prof. Math. and Physics

JVA:jh

