

NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY
Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

8 October 1943.

Dr. J. W. Woodrow
Head, Department of Physics
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Dr. Woodrow:

I have planned for so long to write you what details I can of my work here but the continual pressure of duties is as great as one will allow and I am afraid I have become the world's worst correspondent. However, we seriously believe that the work we are attempting is of considerable importance in the national war effort and feel thankful that in this emergency we can have something satisfying to do.

I want to thank you for releasing Sammy. I fully realize that this was terribly inconvenient to do. I wish I could sit down with you and explain in detail what we needed him for and how much good he is doing in pursuing our common ends. It is just simply true that all of the good men have been tied up for the duration. Some of them, of course, are engaged in important work, some that I know of are just engaged and are being hoarded, as it were. I believe that there is more of this than is commonly admitted but good men are just not available when there is a new important job to do.

What is most important to us and what should have come first is the serious illness of Clifford Anderson. Between two and three months ago he commenced to feel badly and since then has gone from one doctor to another, and hospital to hospital. At last his malady has been diagnosed a cancer of the kidney. Sammy and I have been trying to keep in close touch with him and his folks. Sometime ago, Sammy and his wife lived with the Andersons but just lately they have been stationed 60 miles from Washington where Sammy is working. Now Sammy is back up here trying to help out what he can but of course there is not much any of us can do. As a matter of fact the Andersons are in rather difficult financial straits. They have never had much uninterrupted opportunity to save money and are expecting a new baby in January. Things looked very sad until his father came up two weeks ago. They are a

little better now but not much. It is really pleasant to note the number of friends that Clifford has made at the Laboratory here and he has an excellent reputation for very good work. The doctors are planning to attempt an operation but have put it off from day to day and I am not sure how it will all come out. He can not eat much and his strength is being largely maintained by transfusions. So far, volunteers from the Laboratory have provided all the blood necessary.

I just received a letter saying that Dean Gaskill will be in town next week and I will give him what detail I can of our work.

I plan to be back in Ames sometime in the not too distant future. Mr. Oldham has written me something of the circumstances under which you are working this year. It seems to me that Iowa State College is feeling the war very severely.

Very sincerely yours,

J. V. Atanasoff