

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

19 May 1943.

Mr. Sam Legvold  
Department of Physics  
Iowa State College  
Ames, Iowa

Dear Sammy:

Probably Dean Gaskill has already discussed with you the possibility that Kammer, Earl and you may be allowed, if it happens to suit you, to work for the Navy during the three summer months. This matter has not been discussed with Dr. Woodrow and so should not be disclosed publicly until Dean Gaskill or I talk to him about the matter.

The general notion that we had was that teaching will be somewhat slack this summer because a large number of those entering Naval training will have had elementary work in physics. Our original intention was that the Navy should execute a contract with Iowa State College under which you would continue to be employed by the College but work at the Washington Navy Yard. It now seems more practical to work the matter out on the basis that you be released by the College for the three summer months and enter into a temporary contract to work for the Navy. A further point in the matter is that after this work is over the Navy may decide to farm out certain pieces of work to be done by our group at the College. This would be done by a contract between the Navy and the College, of course.

What do you think of the whole matter? I thought of the arrangement as giving you a little respite from what may become a rut or grind but on the other hand we do need your help very much in my group. Of course, you realize that any arrangements I make are tentative until officially approved. I believe we can arrange the salary situation satisfactorily.

Suppose you talk the matter over with Earls and Kammer and fill out and return the enclosed blanks at the earliest possible moment.

You must explain to the others that have filled out blanks at the College that the hiring of permanent additions by

the Navy Department has been stopped by an order of the Director of the Budget but for some reason that I cannot understand, this order does not prevent hiring urgent men on a temporary basis.

Please give my regards to our many friends.

Very sincerely yours,

John V. Atanasoff