

Iowa State

NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY
WHITE OAK

Silver Spring 19, Md.
13 June 1946

Dr. Harold V. Gaskill
Dean of Science
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa

Dear Dean Gaskill:

After leaving Ames, I enjoyed a very pleasant visit with my family at Boulder. They are all very well - much better on the whole than they have ever been before. Elsie graduated from high school last week and her record, particularly while at Boulder High, was a most satisfactory one. I suggested that she take the summer off and start school in the fall but her private attitude is that she has wasted enough time already and she intends to enroll at the University of Colorado immediately. Joanne and Johnny both find school in Boulder very satisfactory and so I have that much to be happy about.

As you know, the President called off the Bikini affair while was at Boulder. I called the Laboratory in Washington and for several days there was a generally stunned effect, no one knowing which way was up, but finally they told me to come back to work until the tests should be reinstated. By this time my own work had piled up so much that I decided I should not go to Bikini. However, the Captain had chosen me to represent the Naval Ordnance Laboratory at the big shooting and felt we should be represented. It was finally agreed that I should fly both ways and I am starting West again Saturday. Partly to justify my delay in writing you, I might add that in the interim I made one other quick trip to the West Coast.

On the whole my work at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory has been rather satisfactory. A principal difficulty has been that the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, along with other naval organizations, has been suffering sharp personnel complement limitations and as a result, it has not been possible to provide the help for the Computing Machine Project that was originally planned. Only yesterday I secured a decision that either the Computing Machine Project would be satisfactorily complemented or would be dropped. I believe I will have a definite decision one way or another in a few days and I should not be at all surprised if the decision was to go ahead with this project. Be that as it may, there will be

more than enough for all of us to do. Our acoustic facilities are slowly developing along the lines I described to you when you last visited us, and as soon as forms for such arrangements have been established, I will try to establish relations with several institutions of higher learning in the phases of science with which we are particularly concerned.

I am attaching hereto the letter which you suggested I write concerning my professional relations with the Iowa State College. I find this step causes me even more difficulty than I had anticipated and I am looking forward to the time in the future when the close relations between us which I so long enjoyed can be resumed.

I will write you at least a note from Bikini. The stationery which is provided for letters leaving the Kenneth Whiting is quite colorful and if you have not already seen it, you will enjoy its lack of dignity.

Very sincerely yours,

J. V. Atanasoff

JVA/chk

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Dear Dean Gaskill:

As you know, during the past several years the Naval Ordnance Laboratory has seen fit to request an extension of my leave of absence from Iowa State College. I am certain I speak for the Naval Ordnance Laboratory as well as myself when I say that the generous action of Iowa State College in allowing me to continue working for the Laboratory while still retaining my position on the staff of the Iowa State College is greatly appreciated.

It is with great regret that I face the necessity of terminating, at least temporarily, a relationship which, I feel, has been so significant in my own experience. At the same time, it may be that in remaining with the Naval Ordnance Laboratory I shall yet find ways to serve Iowa State College. For instance, as soon as things have reached a somewhat more normal state, there exists a variety of ways in which we can cooperate to the mutual benefit of Iowa State College and the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. Since you and I have discussed such cooperation frequently, I will not dwell on these details. However, I do want to say that this step is causing a deeper feeling of loss than I had ever expected.

Please convey to Dr. Woodrow and President Friley my sincere feelings in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

J. V. Atanasoff

JVA/chk