

23 July 1943.

Dean H. V. Gaskill
Division of Science
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Dean Gaskill:

I am deeply embarrassed by not having written you much sooner. I put off this letter from day to day hoping that I would have time to do it right; now I am resolved to do the best I can in the short time available and trust to your understanding to give it the right interpretation.

I have been even busier since your visit to Washington. Facing an increased load, I greatly appreciated the help which I have received from the three members of the physics staff whom you so kindly loaned us for the summer. There are now fifteen men in my group but the additional load that we have had is making it increasingly difficult for us to meet our schedule. I have some hopes that by the end of the summer certain parts of our activity will have taken on a routine character which will somewhat relieve the stress.

One serious difficulty that we have more or less continuously is a certain indefiniteness of policy. Because of this it is extremely difficult to look ahead and make plans with any certainty that you have not wasted both time and money. This is what one faces in trying to work out a project to be carried out at Ames. There are many projects being carried out by institutions with less to give in the way of facilities and personnel but to make plans as to what will happen that far ahead is very difficult. This is so both because I have difficulty in deciding what we will need to do and because no one will give any serious attention to a matter this far away. At the same time a great deal of pressure is being put on activity in certain directions and I am hopeful that the whole matter will work out as we originally planned it.

I am enclosing the statements relative to the patent situation on our contracts Nos. NDCrc-143 and OEMsr-165. I chose this form of statement rather than a direct agreement not to patent any of this material for obvious reasons. I hope this will satisfy NDRC.

I still hear from Ames rather often in spite of my poor record as a correspondent and I hear you are having a pleasant summer with excellent growing weather for the victory gardens. I would greatly enjoy being there to help with cultivation, etc. Etc. on which great emphasis could be placed means "eating the results thereof". Have you done your canning yet?

Very sincerely yours,