

September 30, 1942

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

Dear Dean Gaskill:

A few minutes ago I came into the Personnel Office to find out about the possibility of securing help for the project which I am undertaking here. In the course of my conversation with the Personnel Officer, he mentioned the correspondence between you and the State Board of Illinois about Clifford G. Anderson, and this reminded me that I should write you a note.

In regard to Mr. Anderson's deferment, I wrote a letter to the State Board of Illinois, reiterating the point of view that you expressed and pointing out that it was a natural and proper thing for Mr. Anderson to join the staff of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory since our project was drawing to a close.

I have now had a few days' contact with the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. I find everyone here working extremely hard to further the ends in which we are all so deeply interested. I am sure that you would overwhelmingly commend the spirit that is being shown. At the same time, the Laboratory suffers from shortages in both men and material in spite of the high priority which the Navy possesses. On every hand there are important projects demanding immediate attention - without the men to staff them. This is related to the "raids" which are being made on universities' staffs throughout the country. I just cannot tell where the line should be drawn.

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I have a very comfortable room within walking distance of the Navy Yard. My address is 949 - 15th Street, S. E. I hope a little later to secure an apartment so that it will be easier to entertain my friends. I have been intending daily to reach Colonel Pride and Professor Ayres, and I will do this within a few days.

I have been wondering how the possibilities of your becoming connected with the Navy are working out. I am certain that a man with your experience and ability in scientific administration would be strikingly useful in this organization. I have wished several times since I came that I could talk with you.

Very sincerely yours,

John V. Atanasoff

JVA:MS