

31st March 1961  
C. S. I. R. O.  
Stowell Avenue  
Hobart, Tasmania

Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, Chairman  
Presidents Science Advisory Committee  
White House  
Washington 25, D.C.

Att: Miss Elaine Mahoney  
Ref: yours of 16th March.

Dear Dr. Wiesner:

The following is a matter, of which I believe some notice should be taken. My comments are not to be construed as complaints, but rather as statements of fact about a project which has gotten quite far off the beam. This is the 140 feet diameter radio telescope at Green Bank, West Virginia

1. The design is poor.
2. The execution is worse.
3. It has already cost twice what it should.
4. Two or three millions of dollars plus several more years will be required to finish it.
5. When finished, the scientific usefulness will be close to zero.

These seem like hard statements. Unfortunately, there is ample evidence to support all the above. Today there are many interesting, important and fruitful researches to be done in radio astronomy. It seems a shame to disapate any more money and man power on this futility.

As a prestige item, its effect is less than zero, especially to people knowledgable on these matters. As an American overseas, the project is a source of some embarrassment to me. I am expected to answer questions like "How long are you Americans going to spend money on that thing?". Perhaps you can provide me with a rational, intelligent and satisfying answer?

Trusting that my comments will not be merely filed,  
I am

Sincerely yours,

*Grote Reber*  
Grote Reber