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MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

January 31, 1996

Dear Mr. Reber:

One of the chief responsibilities of the Library of Congress is the preservation of the personal papers of individuals whose careers in private life and public service have made a major impact on the world in which we live. These words were never more appropriate than in your case, and it is with great pleasure that I invite you to consider the donation of your papers to the national collection.

The national manuscript collections include a great many Americans who have contributed significantly to our history, from the colonial period to the present. In science and technology, the papers of numerous figures, from Benjamin Franklin to Alexander Graham Bell to J. Robert Oppenheimer, are available as important sources for scholars. Researchers who visit the Library of Congress also have access to the papers of other Americans -- like Samuel F. B. Morse and the Wright Brothers -- whose industriousness and individual initiative changed America and the world. History has already shown that your career belongs in that esteemed category as well. Your pioneering work established the field of radio astronomy and opened a hitherto unknown window to the universe. I therefore urge you, if you have not already committed your papers elsewhere, to consider placing them at the Library of Congress.

One of the advantages we can offer is the breadth of our collections. Our holdings are particularly strong in science and therefore would offer the most appropriate context in which your own life and contributions could be studied. In astronomy, our collection is founded on the papers of Simon Newcomb, Thomas Jefferson Jackson See, and George Ellery Hale and includes the work of George Gamow, Alan T. Waterman, and Merle A. Tuve.

We define "papers" in the broadest sense, to include correspondence, diaries, research notes, production materials for publications, photographs, and biographical data. At the Library of Congress your collection would have the benefit of our unparalleled facilities for the conservation and restoration of manuscript materials. We have a state of the art security environment and our stack areas are controlled and regulated for proper temperature and humidity levels.

I realize that the disposition of one's personal papers is an important matter which can raise many questions. I enclose, therefore, several current brochures which convey some of our thoughts on this issue. I would, of course, be pleased to answer any questions that you have and to give you a tour of the Manuscript Division should you make another long journey eastward.

Sincerely,



James H. Hutson
Chief

Enclosures

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