

December 31st, 1951  
212 W. Seminary Ave.  
Wheaton, Illinois

Mr. Walter Roberts  
Climax Observatory  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado

Dear Roberts:

I had hoped to see you at the A. A. S. meeting in Cleveland as there was a good crowd there.

R. N. Thomas of Utah was telling me a little about your present circumstances and I was rather upset to learn that one possibility is to turn Climax over to the C.R.P.L. On a small scale, this is a mistake I made ~~some~~ years ago and only recently have I been able to extricate myself from that error.

It has been my observation that the people running CRPL are rather on the dull side and in common with other government agencies, are submerged in a mass of rigmarole beyond all conception. The civil service and a jail have much in common. They are easier to get into than out of, and when one is inside there are so many bars that freedom of action is quite impossible.

I would suggest holding out for a contract to operate Climax thru CRPL, ONR, NRL or Naval Observatory, even if it is only on a year to year basis. In any case, don't join the civil service as that is scientific suicide.

I expect to be here in Wheaton for about six weeks or two months. If you get to Chicago, let me know and we'll have dinner together. Some time in February I plan to return to Hawaii.

Best regards,

Grote Reber