

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS
AMES, IOWA

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

February 16, 1943

Dr. J. V. Atanasoff
Naval Ordnance Laboratory
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Atanasoff:

First, I must apologize for not having answered your good letter a long time ago. My only excuse is that we have been having such a hectic life here that we never seem to know what the next week will bring forth. Mr. Freel left us in January and I have only just now been able to secure a man to take his place. It has been impossible to work out a general, consistent teaching program for any extended period as the needs and requirements change so frequently. This quarter we are giving Physics 221, 2 and 3, Physics 211 and 12, and Physics 311, 12 and 13 all at the same time, which you can see means a lot of lecture demonstration. It has been quite a job setting these up without an apparatus man.

Of course we have also had the regular deferment difficulties, but the War Manpower Commission is now putting enough pressure on the local boards so that we are not having much difficulty in securing deferments for our physics teachers. However, I am not sure about how much luck we are going to have in keeping in school our three seniors who will graduate in July or August. I believe that our local board here will defer one of them, but one of the boys who lives in Detroit has been told by his board that he will be reclassified on February 19. I have written to his board explaining that he will graduate in July or August and that I feel that he will be more useful if he is permitted to finish, but I don't know what their attitude will be. This boy is Richard A. Walker who came to us as a transfer student last summer from Cornell College, and he has made an excellent record. He is a quiet, conscientious, hardworking boy with a first class mind. In my opinion he is nearly as good as Watson and distinctly better in experimental work. I am writing you these particulars about Walker to find out whether you would like to take him on there in case his draft board does not defer him to continue his college training.

You will remember that you sent a preliminary set of examination questions for Mr. O'Donnell some time ago. He expects to

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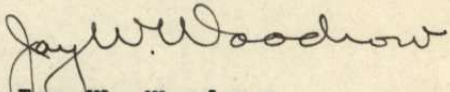
take this examination in about two weeks. Should I send the examination paper on to you or do you want to turn it over to Sam Legvold to grade? Who do you think should sit in on his oral examination, the date for which has not yet been set?

I attended the meetings of the American Physical Society in New York the latter part of January and had a little visit with Fox, but none of the men were up from Washington. There was a good attendance at the meeting in spite of the difficulties of travel, and I felt that my trip was decidedly worthwhile.

I hope that you research men are developing equipment that will do as good a job against the Germans from this side as the Russians are from their side. Although I suspect that some of the Russian successes are due in part at least, to some of our equipment.

I see members of your family occasionally and they all seem to be doing very well, although I hear hints now and then that the man of the house is missed frequently. Everybody here sends their best wishes.

Sincerely,


Jay W. Woodrow
Head of Department

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