

Biology Building
February 13, 1932

Dr. W. L. McAtee
Div. Food Habits Research
U. S. Biological Survey
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. McAtee:

I hope you will not consider my failure to answer promptly your letter of February 6 any discourtesy on my part, for I just found the letter yesterday upon my return from a trip to Iowa.

The Iowa people have had me down there the past week at their expense, but since the President (who invited me to come) had to be out of town at the time nothing definite was settled. The State College is apparently hard pressed to raise money although \$6,000 of the proposed \$9,000 for this research has already been pledged privately and by the Game Department in Des Moines.

In short, I don't know where I stand and won't know for several days. I made it plain when I left that something had to be decided soon. Indeed, were it not for Leopold's interest in this project and for what I feel to be a moral obligation to play ball with him as far as I possibly can, I would drop the Iowa negotiations without further ado.

I realize, too, the unenviable position in which this delay puts you through the holding up of moves which you might want to make, especially if it happens that--after stalling you off for some weeks--I leave you holding the bag in the end.

The Iowa job seems more to my liking and more fitting to my qualifications; on the other hand, I think I would rather work under you than under anybody that I met in Iowa. I would probably be compelled to accept a lower salary at Iowa than a person of equivalent training and education usually draws in the government service. As to relative advantages and disadvantages, it seems in the long run a toss-up between the two propositions.

Would it be asking too much of you, then, to give me until February 20 to straighten things out. I will notify Iowa that they must give me their decision by that time.

Yours sincerely,

Paul L. Errington