

37. (I)

1925, Dec. 17

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
CHEMISTRY

MADISON

H. L. RUSSELL, DEAN AND DIRECTOR

- S. M. BABCOCK
- E. R. HART
- H. STENBOCK
- W. H. PETERSON
- W. E. TOTTINGHAM
- C. A. RUFFERT

December 17, 1925

1)
Ass. 2/3/625 passed
of patents of college
of presentation
2/3 OK
2/3 OK

Dean H. L. Russell,
American Club, *also sent to Manila*
Shanghai, China.

Dear Dean Russell:

Professor Morrison was down in my office a few minutes ago and he read a very lengthy letter in which he discussed the more recent developments of the situation in connection with the University Research Foundation. I want to ask you not to be unduly alarmed by his communication. Personally I have not been alarmed by an apparent tendency to anticipate a great deal of trouble in connection with the administration of the patents which we expect to get. It is but natural that any project representing a new departure in University procedure is bound to be subjected to some criticism, but I have always felt that as long as this matter is handled in such a manner that the people are protected and benefited all dangerous criticism is naturally taken care of.

This whole matter has come to the fore as the result of your conference with Mr. Glover shortly before your departure. Mr. Glover's reaction to your slogan "We must follow where truth leads" makes him assume that neither the College of Agriculture nor any other public institution supported by tax payers has the right to withhold any information or the use of such information from the public for any purpose whatsoever. He takes the extreme view that our government is not a monarchy but a democracy and that though a democracy may make many mistakes, in the end any restriction in policy is bound to lead to difficulties. For instance, he takes the extreme view that the dairy industry does not need any protection; that butter at the present time is not being used on account of its vitamin content but rather on account of its taste. He admits that in the case of filled milk lack of vitamins is the only basis on which the product can be condemned. I have gained this information from him in a personal interview during which I found him adamant; although he admitted that certain points were debatable. Allow me to add that my interview lasting for approximately two hours was a very friendly one and in no case did he express his point of view under pressure or as a result of mere argument. All in all his point of view is that the University has no right to patent anything and that if an attempt to do so is made by the College, it will be necessary for Hoards Dairyman to oppose the College in its policy.

This is an unfortunate situation but not necessarily an alarming one because I feel that when I make my assignment to the

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Research Foundation, it may be taken care of by imposing certain restrictions upon the action of the Foundation. For instance, it may be necessary for me to claim the right of final approval of all licences issued by the Foundation. This would at least serve to post pone the issue until such time as we will know just what the consequences of following certain policies may be. I am also not unduly alarmed by Glover's point of view because it will not be the first time that Hoards Dairyman has taken the wrong stand upon an important matter relating to the dairy industry.

Professor Morrison seemed very much inclined to think that the Board of Regents should be acquainted with this situation and that the whole matter ought to be thrown open to them for discussion. Personally I am convinced that the matter should not be taken up with the Board of Regents and I have told Professor Morrison that if he would insist upon it, I would be placed in the difficult position where I would be tempted to tell the Board of Regents that it was not necessary for them to feel that they are the guardians of the principles of research. I do not wish to deny the fact that they should be vitally interested, but I feel that inasmuch as the machinery has been provided for taking care of this matter that wisely administered no serious controversies should arise. I am also convinced that it is absolutely necessary for me to subordinate my interest in any personal financial re-
turns to those of the University, and for that reason I am expect-
ing to make my assignment of patent application leaving this matter
entirely to the Research Foundation. I am also inclined to believe that it will not be advisable for the Foundation to seek to gain the greatest monetary returns from the patents. Nevertheless, the Foundation must make money to defend its patents; otherwise all our attempts have been in vain. To me the example set by the Insulin Committee of Toronto appears to be an excellent one to follow; although, if at all possible, I should like to see greater monetary returns than the Toronto group is expecting to receive.

I was indeed very much interested in your report of the achievements of the Japanese biochemists and although we are inclined to look upon the Japanese work as rather hectic, they are bound to make "strikes" here and there. I have been familiar with the work of the late Dr. Takahashi on vitamin A - having had at hand his reprint on bio-stearin since shortly after its publication. His claim of having isolated vitamin A is, however, not acceptable. Furthermore, I am also inclined to be skeptical as to the claims made by Dr. Suzuki for the isolation of vitamin B. I must admit, however, that I have not seen his data.

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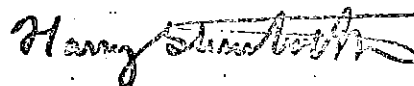
Dean H. L. Russell--3

I have received preparation of vitamin A capsules for which accept my thanks as I was glad to get it. However, when I see these chaps making money on what to a considerable extent represents the results of my work, I cannot help but regret the Marvin incident. I am writing to Dr. Suzuki in regard to the quartz mercury vapor lamp although I doubt very much that he has anything new.

Professor Morrison and I had a conference with Dean Slichter today and it is my understanding that Dean Slichter will also write you in regard to the Research Foundation. Between the three of us I think you will get the correct perspective.

The members of the Station staff have enjoyed your letters of the past immensely and I hope that we may receive more in the future. Though this letter will not reach you for some weeks, I want to give you my best wishes for the coming year and many pleasant experiences on your present trip.

Very sincerely yours,



HS:S

Copy sent to The Manilla Hotel,
Manilla,
Philippine Islands.