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October 24, 1946

M. J. Lawrence
10/24/46

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Dr. J. H. Lawrence
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Lawrence:

I wish to apologize for the delay in answering your letter of October 14, 1946, the delay being partly due to being out of town with the balance occupied in consulting with my superiors as to the advisability of undertaking the proposed responsibility at the present time.

I shall endeavor to explain the circumstances in which I now find myself in an effort to offer a clear justification for refusing the very flattering commission you have so kindly offered.

As you probably know the Plutonium Project is struggling very hard to publish as soon as possible the Plutonium Project Record of twenty some odd volumes. I am serving on the editorial committees of two of these volumes in addition to services to the Committee on Radioactivity of the National Research Council, various committees at the University of Chicago, etc. I am trying to help get my section of the Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics going while still on loan to this Laboratory, the latter being a full time job.

A conference with my superiors in this Laboratory and with Dr. R. E. Zirkle, Director of the Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics, resulted in their decision that, under present circumstances, I should make no more commitments until the PPR is out of the way. The performance of this duty would then leave me a free choice to do whatever I felt best. This cannot be accomplished before June, 1947.

It is realized that the project experience in this field should be publicized aside from the PPR and that your volume would be a good medium.

May I suggest that you could, perhaps, secure the services of H. M. Parker of the Hanford Engineer Works, Richland, Washington, whose project and previous experience eminently qualifies him to write such a chapter.