

WAR DEPARTMENT
AIRCRAFT RADIO LABORATORYJOM:ee
WRIGHT FIELD, DAYTON, OHIO

September 16, 1936

Mr. W. F. Friedman,
Office of the Chief Signal Officer,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Billy:

I have your letter of September 9, 1936, and want to reassure you about the matter of the patent application. I wrote Col. Bender about the matter stating that it wasn't quite clear to me, after our talk at your house about the patent, why you were proposing to file an application in the names of both of us, and I indicated that I believed I should drop out of the picture, but that I realized that what probably happened was that you found that due to the fact that we had jointly set down in writing our ideas on the radio application of your invention, you found yourself in the position where you couldn't go ahead on your own hook since this paper showed that legally some other person was involved. I rather felt that you might have taken the matter up with me before proceeding, but I left the matter up to the Chief Signal Officer as to whether or not I should proceed as co-inventor in view of all of the hullabaloo that has been raised about the patent situation, and because of my connection here. Col. Bender's reaction was that, after all, he believed we should let matters take their course as you had started them since the particular device covered by the patent application had no connection with any work I am doing at this laboratory, and he felt that he need not take the matter up at all with the Chief Signal Officer. I understand that the action of the Signal Corps Board was to defer action on the application until a patent search determined whether or not the device was patentable, so I feel that the difficulty I had about the matter has been surmounted, and we will just let nature take its course from now on with reference to this patent application so you may be sure that I have no feeling of resentment as to your action, and thoroughly understand what moved you in the matter.

It is interesting to note that it is not too late to file on the joint invention.

Mrs. Mauborgne and I were both very much disturbed to hear about the trouble you had with your teeth, but I am quite sure that after

the new permanent teeth have been in use for a little while you are going to feel much better in spirits and decidedly less nervous. Unquestionably, the doctors knew best in this case and I think it will give you a great deal of comfort in the future as I have seen many cases of this sort produce wonderful results within six months or a year.

I am sorry to hear that you are through inventing for I am still unconvinced that the Chief Signal Officer has in mind the stifling of inventions, and that so far as he is concerned the system set up simply causes the inventor a little delay in the filing of an application. The disturbing feature of this invention question rather lies in the fact that Congress seems to have something in mind with reference to changing the legislation covering inventions made by government employees, as evidenced by the fact that Col. Gullion, of the J.A.G.D., is still conducting active investigations with a view to presenting to Congress arguments bearing on both sides of the question as to how the Government's interests could be best served by making a change in the existing law. I feel there is a tendency to revert to the Act of 1883 under which any invention made by a government employee automatically was turned over to the entire American public for use. In my opinion, it would be a step backward if this law were reenacted.

Now that I am beginning to feel my shoulders in the harness, I am beginning to like this job very much although the climate is about as bad as can be imagined. That seems to be about the only objection to service at Wright Field.

Mrs. Mauborgne joins me in warmest regards to you and Elizabeth.

Sincerely,

