

UNIVERSITY OF
ROCHESTER

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
NUCLEAR STRUCTURE RESEARCH LABORATORY

April 28, 1993

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we sent to you, and a copy of the response sent by Alan L. Hoffman of the Health Care Task Force. We were quite confused by Mr. Hoffman's letter, as you might imagine, since our letter had absolutely nothing to do with health care reform, the President's Task Force, or videotapes. While we recognize that this is an important issue facing our country, we would appreciate a response to the issues addressed in our letter.

Sincerely,

Diane C. Bryan
Diane C. Bryan

Charles G. Freeman
Charles G. Freeman

Diane M. Herrick
Diane M. Herrick

Kristin L. Kurz
Kristin L. Kurz

5/26 - Forwarded to B. Webster
6/30 - DoEd Response -
does not fund Univ -
based scientific research
- Redirected to DoE
7/6

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 13, 1993

Diane Bryan
Charles Freeman
Diane Herrick
Kristin Kurtz
Nuclear Structure Research Laboratory
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627

Dear Ms. Bryan, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Herrick, Ms. Kurtz:

Thank you for your kind invitation to Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton. While Mrs. Clinton gratefully appreciates and welcomes the opportunity you have afforded, her schedule does not permit her to accept your invitation. On behalf of Mrs. Clinton, I regret that she will not be attending your event.

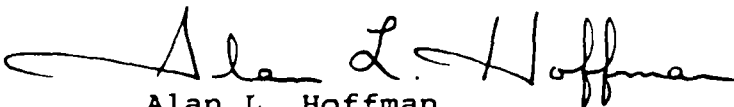
Recently, Mrs. Clinton has produced a video in which she addresses many issues confronting health care reform. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of this video, please contact Doug Thurman of the National Archives at 202-501-5705.

Reforming the nation's health care system is one of the most important challenges facing our country. The President's Task Force on National Health Care Reform is currently studying and debating the options for reform. The Task Force is seeking a wide range of input and invites you to submit any thoughts you or your organization may have.

The issues confronting our nation are daunting. With your help and support however, we can develop and implement a health care reform plan that best meets the needs of all Americans.

Thank you for your invitation. Your continued interest and support are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alan L. Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Alan L. Hoffman
Director of Scheduling
Health Care Task Force

April 1, 1993

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

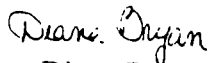
We are writing to express our concern regarding proposed funding cuts to university research programs. We are currently in our third year of study in a PhD program in nuclear physics at the University of Rochester. Our training in this field is provided at an on-campus facility, the Nuclear Structure Research Laboratory, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. Recently the budget of the National Science Foundation has been severely cut, and therefore, they are faced with the decision of how to distribute their limited funds. It has been proposed that these cuts may result in the closing of some university-based laboratories. We would like to bring to your attention the importance of the continued operation of such facilities in the training of young scientists.

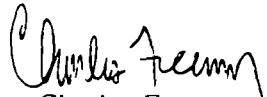
The recent trend in research funding has been toward supporting application-oriented programs. The majority of the research done at the NSRL is "pure" research which is not based on direct applications. Those who set the priorities for research in this country should be reminded of the importance of such research. Many applications-based research facilities rely heavily on the results of this research for ideas and technology which further their own fields. For example, the Eastman Kodak Company, based here in Rochester, New York, is designing new integrated circuits to be used in space satellites. Their research associates are presently employing our facility to investigate radiation damage to such devices. Previous studies of the interaction of radiation with matter done at this facility have stimulated their investigation. Without "pure" research programs, applications programs would lose their foundation and cease to exist.

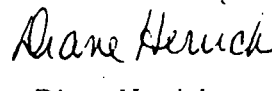
Not only is the NSRL an efficient and productive research facility, but it also provides a well-rounded, hands-on education to the graduate students who are trained here. At this laboratory we are proud of the representation of women involved in research. Of the graduate students currently training at the NSRL, 25% are women. At a time when such an emphasis is placed on the need for well-trained women in science, it is a shame to see the future operation of facilities such as this one threatened. The closing of university-based laboratories can only discourage the assimilation of women into the male-dominated sciences.

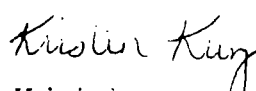
We will be in Washington from April 12 through April 15 to attend the annual meeting of the American Physical Society. Although we understand how busy your schedule is, if circumstances allow we would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you. Thank you for your time in considering an issue which is very important to us.

Sincerely,


Diane Bryan


Charles Freeman


Diane Herrick


Kristin Kurz



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 30, 1993

Laurie L. Labuda
Chief of Staff
Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Labuda:

With regard to the enclosed correspondence from Ph.D. students at the University of Rochester, the Department of Education does not fund university-based scientific research laboratories. It appears that the Department of Energy would be the most likely source of funding for the type of facility described in the letter to Mrs. Clinton.

I am returning the correspondence to you so that you may redirect it to the Department of Energy. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Sincerely,

Leslie Thornton
Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1993

Dear Billy:

The attached correspondence from PhD students at the University of Rochester was forwarded to me by the First Lady's office. As you can see, the initial response to the letter was not quite what they were looking for.

Would you please send a response to these people for us and copy me on anything that goes out so that I may pass it along to Mrs. Clinton's office.

Thank you.

Sincerely, \



Laurie L. Labuda
Chief of Staff
Office of Cabinet Affairs

Mr. Billy Webster
Chief of Staff
Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

COPY

AUG 2 1993

Diane Bryan
Charles Freeman
Diane Herrick
Kristin Kurz
Nuclear Structure Research Laboratory
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY 14627

Dear Ms. Bryan, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Herrick, and Ms. Kurz:

We regret the confusion regarding your April 1, 1993 letter to Mrs. Clinton concerning budgetary actions facing the University of Rochester's Nuclear Structure Research Laboratory (NSRL). Your letter was certainly well thought out and expresses sincere concern about the directions science is taking. I would like to respond to the points which you made. First, I should note that there has been at least a partial response to your concerns in the enclosed copy of a letter sent to you by Dr. Britt of the NSF Physics Division. I believe that Dr. Britt's points are well taken and I will not repeat them. Beyond that discussion, you raised points in your letter to Mrs. Clinton regarding women in science and pure versus applications-oriented research. I would like to address those points herein.

Firstly, as to the participation of women and other under-represented groups in science as well as other endeavors, I wish to assure you that continued improvement in this area remains a very high priority of the government, and the NSF is committed to this policy. The closure of some research facilities because of budgetary constraints, while clearly disruptive, is not done without alternative modes of training these groups in forefront science. In your case, collaborations involving other small labs, and the use of large, central user facilities remain as viable research alternatives. It would appear that successfully changing the mode of research is more an issue of seeing that the travel and necessary infrastructure resources are in place, than it is a gender or other issue. With continued effort on the part of government, universities, the scientific community, and of role models, the excitement of participating in forefront science can be communicated to the under-represented groups and, as well, to society at large.

Secondly, regarding support for basic research, the difference between what you termed "pure" and applied research is becoming less and less clear; however, you are indeed correct when you point out that the development of forefront applications is predicated on a strong pure research base. In fact, the NSF has

Ms. Bryan, Mr. Freeman, Ms. Herrick, and Ms. Kurz
Page 2

reaffirmed the importance of basic research in its mission. Nevertheless, the setting of priorities in science and the very real budgetary constraints which the nation faces will inevitably force consolidation and actions such as the NSRL faces. Even so, we believe that the research alternatives which Dr. Britt detailed in his letter to you are realistic, sensitive to both scientific and human issues, and will continue to provide the basis for a forefront basic nuclear physics research program in the U.S.

Thank you for your thoughtful letter, and I wish you success in your graduate education and research careers.

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Eisenstein
Director, Division of Physics

Enclosure

Copy to: Laurie Labuda, Office of Cabinet Affairs, The White House ←
Clarence R. Richardson, Department of Energy
Frederick M. Bernthal, Director, National Science Foundation
William C. Harris, National Science Foundation

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
1800 G STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

April 12, 1993

Ms. Diane Bryan
Nuclear Structure Research Lab
College of Arts and Science
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York 14627

Dear Ms. Bryan:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter concerning the role of the small university accelerators in graduate education and the overall nuclear physics program. First, I would like to assure you that we at the NSF and the review panel were very impressed by the level of graduate education at NSRL and at the other seven university laboratories that we support. The broad training received and great enthusiasms of the students along with the record of further success in the job market after graduation are strong indicators of the value of trying to preserve this environment to the extent possible. Nevertheless, we are currently faced with two major trends that we can not ignore. First, the resources available to our program are shrinking in real terms and we must find ways to utilize these resources in the most effective manner. Second, the natural evolution of our field continually opens new questions and new opportunities that call for the phasing down of some activities in order to make room for new ones.

In low energy nuclear physics there are still many interesting and challenging problems and we will continue to support substantial efforts in these areas. However, since the basic tools have been available for some time it is increasingly true that the challenging experiments require increasingly more sophisticated equipment and it becomes difficult to replicate this equipment in many places. This trend has led to the growth of national user facilities such as Gammasphere, FMA, etc. but in a more modest way it has also lead to less formal collaborative work such as the Notre Dame/Pittsburgh/FSU array and the Rutgers/Rochester nuclear moments' programs. We believe that in the current climate some further consolidation will be necessary in order to support a viable, forefront program. We hope that additional collaborations will develop where all parties bring in equipment, ideas and expertise with the result that challenging experiments can be undertaken that would not have been possible for a single group on their own machine.

While it is true as you point out, that there are difficulties associated with doing experiments on a facility away from home there are also advantages. Among these is the physics being able to follow a problem beyond the capability of your machine and having access to more sophisticated equipment that allows you to participate at the forefront of a particular area. Turn around may not be as rapid but sometimes it is valuable training to have to plan more carefully and to defend your ideas and programs to your peers. In our visits to laboratory facilities we actually found great diversity from experiments conducted completely at local facilities to projects begun locally and correlated with measurements at other facilities to experiments that were carried on completely at large user facilities with formal PACs. In all of these cases we found that when the user group was playing an important role in the experiment and usually providing or doing R&D on equipment or techniques, the students were challenged, enthusiastic and well educated.

We are committed to supporting a first class research program at NSRL and think that the reviews and record of the group suggest a continuing strong program. From my personal experience cooperative programs involving more than one institution can be very exciting and rewarding to students, postdocs and faculty. It is our intention to support within our means creative new ventures and also to try to find the resources to finish programs already under way to minimize unreasonable dislocations.

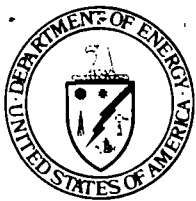
I wish you success on your thesis projects and hope that these difficult times do not dissuade you from pursuing a career in nuclear physics which at least I have always found to be not only intellectually rewarding but also fun.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harold C. Britt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harold C. Britt
Program Director
Nuclear Physics

Copy to: R. A. Eisenstein, DD/PHY
J. W. Lightbody, PD/NP



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 16, 1993

Dr. John W. Lightbody
Physics Division
National Science Foundation
1800 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20550

Dear Jack,

As we discussed this morning, since the authors and the subject of the enclosed correspondence are in your program, I am forwarding the letter to you for your disposition. Please note that the White House requests a copy of your response.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Clarence R. Richardson", is positioned above the typed name.

Clarence R. Richardson
Deputy Director
Division of Nuclear Physics

cc:
Ms. Laurie L. Labuda
Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House

Richard H. Rosenzweig, S-1

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 6, 1993

Dear Rich:

The attached correspondence from PhD students at the University of Rochester was forwarded to me by the First Lady's office. As you will note, the initial response to the letter was not quite what they were looking for.

Would you please send a response to these people for us and copy me on anything that goes out so that I may pass it along to Mrs. Clinton's office?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Laurie L. Labuda
Office of Cabinet Affairs

Richard H. Rosenzweig
Chief of Staff
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585