

CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
LABORATORY OF NUCLEAR STUDIES  
ITHACA, NEW YORK

March 1, 1967

Prof. Norman Ramsey, President  
Universities Research Association, Inc.  
2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20418

Dear Norman:

I am happy and deeply honoured to accept the position of Laboratory Director of the National Accelerator Laboratory. It is an adventurous undertaking that appeals to me deeply. I expect to give my best to help us make it a laboratory of which we can all be proud.

Because there are so many currents that are working in favor of the construction of the 200 GeV synchrotron, there is good reason to be optimistic about the success of the Laboratory. The Commissioners of the A.E.C. have shown in our conversations with them how enthusiastic they are and how willingly they expect to modify and adapt the procedures of the A.E.C. so that we can move on a fast schedule of construction. The positive attitude of the Congressmen is also heartening. I don't have to mention the U.R.A., but I am convinced it is well set-up and that it will provide a stable base for the whole operation. Then, probably, of even more importance than the foregoing, is the strong sense of the high energy physicists of this country to do what has to be done to get on with the construction and use of the synchrotron.

In accepting the directorship, I must remind you of my obligation to the National Science Foundation and to Cornell University to finish the construction of the 10 GeV electron synchrotron. The machine is mainly constructed and its operation is imminent, so we can be optimistic that my obligation can be fulfilled within months. I am tentatively expecting to move to the Chicago area sometime this summer or next fall, but I will start devoting an ever-increasing fraction of my time to the National Accelerator Laboratory from my base here in Ithaca.

Yours sincerely,

  
Robert Rathbun Wilson

RRW:mrm  
cc: Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg  
Prof. H. D. Smyth  
President J. A. Perkins

RRW