

NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH
BOULDER, COLORADO

23 October 1963

To: UCAR Board of Trustees
From: Walter Orr Roberts
Subject: Recent Developments Concerning NSF FY 1964 Appropriation

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this "round robin" letter is to express my appreciation to the Board for its support of the National Science Foundation's FY 1964 budget and NCAR's allocation within it, and further to bring you up to date on recent events in Washington. I appreciate the copies of the excellent letters to the Senate so many of you have sent me.

The Senate hearings, originally scheduled to be held October 18, have now been postponed until October 30. Though this will delay the appropriation process somewhat, it will also allow the reaction of the scientific community to the sharply reduced NSF budget request voted by the House to have its full effect upon members of the Senate. Thus there is time for any of you who have not yet had the opportunity to write to various Senators to do so if you wish.

We were greatly heartened by the President's speech to the National Academy of Sciences yesterday, in which he interpolated a plea to the Senate to restore a significant portion of the funds the House cut from the NSF budget request. The President also indicated that oceanography and the atmospheric sciences must have strong national support.

The President's speech emphasized the necessity for a thorough review by both government and science in advance of experimentation that might affect the atmosphere or the environment of space. His remarks were implicitly but clearly directed toward past experiments such as Project West Ford (in which the belt of copper dipoles was placed in orbit as a test for a global radio communications system during magnetic storms) and toward weather control and other experiments of the future.

His plea for the restoration of basic research funds of the National Science Foundation was thus extremely appropriate; Foundation-sponsored research will contribute much of the knowledge necessary to provide the answers-in-advance the President deems essential.

Again, my appreciation for your prompt and vigorous support. It is my conviction that we will win through on this crisis!

Sincerely yours,

Walter Orr Roberts
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