

Fenwick, Charles Co., Maryland
21 December 1947.

Dear Boris:

I have several letters from you to answer and will take them up in order.

First, yours of 24 November. As soon as I got the data re the Netherlands Purchasing Commission, I turned the information over to our people at the office and an investigation was made but I am sorry to say that I do not think they turned up much evidence. Maybe the Netherlands Purchasing Commission headquarters is in New York and down here the people in the Signal Corps and in War Assets were not able to find out much. We learned of only one case where a very few, I think about a dozen or two, had been offered to somebody out in the Far East but when the word went out there to prevent the 209's from going on sale, this small offering was withdrawn. The situation is that the policy of withholding these machines from sale as war surplus still stands, and has been reaffirmed as a result of the information you and Stuart have given us. I should add that I am told, however, that the contract for the purchase of your U. S. patents does not preclude the sale of these machines provided the sale takes place within the U. S. I don't suppose, though, that this is news to you. While no change in the policy of non-sale is contemplated, what the situation might be a few years from now nobody can predict. But by that time it is possible that the machines would have deteriorated a lot while in storage, so that they might be worthless. Hence, I don't think that there is much to worry about in the present situation.

About Art and Ingrid, your later letters contained new news, and I suppose that they will now remain in California. I hope he has a nice assignment at Fairview. The weather there will be most agreeable to Ingrid.

Well, I suppose Count Armfelt got things mixed up a bit. We did not get the jam but we did get a nice box of cookies. Somebody else must have enjoyed the jam as we enjoyed the cookies, so we can call it a square deal. I hardly think I would like to telephone him unless it were some more urgent a matter than that!

Will you please give Mr. Qvarnstrom my best thanks for his prompt sending of the literature, one packet of which came by air mail and the other is coming by ordinary mail. I appreciate your and his courtesy very much.

In your letter you wind up by telling of your trip to Paris and of the job you got of building a machine for them for the production of one-time blanks, as you call it. If this is to be a commercial machine, I am sure that we would be interested in learning details. Whatever you can tell me would be appreciated. If, however, there is some element of confidentiality or secrecy about the matter which will prevent you from disclosing any details, I will understand the situation and not trouble you further.

Next, your letter of Dec. 8th. Yes, I did get from you a shoaf of papers, patents and the like, and I regret that I must have been laboring under some misapprehension concerning them. I thought that they were mine to keep but realize now that you merely loaned them to me. I have the package but if it is intact, with the same contents as originally, I am not sure. I will get the package back to you as soon as I can and hope that there won't be much missing. I did not make an inventory either and now I suppose there is no way

of telling what there was originally. 970

You ask for my full official address. It is Chief, Communications Research, Army Security Agency, Washington 25, D.C. You ask for that in connection with paying a visit to Major Walsh, which I don't understand, as we have no connection with the military attache establishment. I do not know this Major Walsh, I am sure, but it is possible I am mistaken.

I knew, of course, of your impending meeting with Stuart and that is the reason why I sent him a letter in care of you, which I hope you were either able to forward by mail or will hand to him when you meet. I wanted to get some word to Stuart about the salt drier box. That situation is beginning to look pretty good. Stuart got the head of one of the big subsidiaries of General Electric interested in that gadget and I also have worked out a new embodiment which appears to be highly satisfactory. This patent will be in John's name as he conceived the idea and I am simply acting as his agent. It would certainly be nice if John could start out with some nest egg built up from royalties.

Your letter of Dec. 13th. I turned over the information re the Automatic Radio Manufacturing Co. to our office people who are handling the affair and there has not been time to learn anything yet. I am amazed at the price, which leads me think there is something phoney about the whole business. It just doesn't seem possible that the devices could be any good at that price. Maybe they are scrapped devices. You know that we ordered unserviceable ones and unrepairable ones to be destroyed for salvage of aluminum, etc. Maybe that is where these came from. But we shall soon find out and I will let you know the minute we learn anything authentic.

Finally, yours of Dec. 15th... I do not understand the reference to M 209 Z devices. We never had such a letter designation, only 209 A, 209 B, and 209 C, if I am not mistaken. That too makes me think these devices may be the unrepairable and unserviceable ones, having the tail letter of the alphabet attached to the number 209. This letter will be taken in to town with me tomorrow and will be given attention at once.

I am on holiday now. I decided to take off the last three weeks of the year and stay down at the country place. The weather has been wonderful and I am enjoying the place with Elizabeth. Both children are with us now, John being home from college for the Christmas holidays and Barbara being with us for the week end. Both are very well. Barbara seems to like her job more and more and I hope she will settle down now and make a success of it. She has a fine opportunity at the Bureau of Standards.

Well, Boris, I must close this letter now and want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Especially do we wish you and Annie a most enjoyable holiday in Switzerland and a fond reunion with the Hedden Family.

I will drop you a line as soon as I have any news re the 209.

Sincerely,