

Comm/4(b) *I. Staffens*^{30/1}

30th January, 1964.

NI/64/1

01795

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN NUCLEAR SCIENCE

GOVERNING BOARD

Suggested Imbalance between the Support of Nuclear
and Non-Nuclear Research in the Universities

Note by the Secretary

As Members will have seen from Minute 4 of the Physics Committee meeting on 19th December, 1963, the D.S.I.R. in referring to the Institute the report of their Working Party on Nuclear Structure Research, conveyed at the same time the views of their Research Grants Committee, supported by their Research Council, that too high a proportion of the funds available for the support of universities' research was being spent on nuclear physics. A copy of the letter is attached. The Board will no doubt wish to make a considered reply to the views expressed in the third paragraph, and it is intended to submit a suggested reply for consideration at the next meeting.

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF
SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Our reference: B/148/01

State House, High Holborn,
London, W.C.1

Telephone: CHAncery 1262

5th December, 1963.

Dear Pickavance,

Nuclear Structure Research

1. You will already know that the Working Party on Nuclear Structure Research, which was set up by the Nuclear Physics Sub-Committee to advise them on the facilities which will be required in the future for nuclear structure research in the Universities, has recommended, inter alia, the establishment of a national nuclear structure laboratory with a tandem Van de Graaf generator for the highest energy commercially available.

2. The Research Grants Committee, having considered the Working Party's report, feel that it would be more appropriate for this particular recommendation to be considered by N.I.R.N.S. in view of the Institute's responsibilities for the provision of facilities of this nature for the common use of Universities. I am therefore writing to enquire whether you would be willing to refer the report to the N.I.R.N.S. Governing Board for this purpose. The Working Party's other recommendation, regarding home-based facilities for the main centres of University interest, is being dealt with by D.S.I.R.

3. The Research Grants Committee have asked the Department, in forwarding the report officially to N.I.R.N.S., to convey their views that too high a proportion of the funds available for the support of Universities' research is being spent on nuclear physics and that more encouragement must now be given to the many other promising fields of research, particularly those which are likely to be more rewarding economically and especially those in the applied sciences and technologies. In this connection I should also mention that the Research Grants Committee's views, which were expressed in some detail in the light of the recommendations made by the Working Party (and also those made by the Working Party on the future European high-energy physics programme under the Chairmanship of Professor Flowers) were strongly supported by the Research Council, which subsequently forwarded a memorandum to the Lord President on the present imbalance between the support of nuclear and non-nuclear research in the Universities.

4. The Nuclear Physics Sub-Committee asked that the report should also be made available to the U.K.A.E.A., inviting their views. I enclose a copy of the letter which has been sent to Sir William Penney.

5. I am also sending copies to Turnbull.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) C. JOLLIFFE

Dr. T. G. Pickavance,
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in Nuclear Science,
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Harwell, Didcot, Berks.