

5th. February, 1959.

Dr. Detlev W. Bronk,
The Rockefeller Institute,
66 Street and York Avenue,
New York 21,
N.Y.

Dear Det,

This letter is a request for informal advice. I expect you to be completely frank, and brutal if you like.

Do you think there is any chance that the Rockefeller brothers or the Rockefeller Foundation would care to consider an application for endowment of the work of the Montreal Neurological Institute on the occasion of the quarter-century celebration which will be held next autumn? Our former Fellows will return then from China, India and Poland, as well as elsewhere.

It hardly seems possible to me that it is a quarter of a century since the Institute was opened on September 27th., 1934. You will remember, perhaps, that the Rockefeller Foundation gave us an endowment of a million dollars for a research and teaching budget and contributed one half of the cost of the building of the original Institute. That Foundation grant has yielded us more than a million dollars, which has been converted into hard work on the problems of the nervous system.

We have since had a further endowment of a million dollars from Mr. J.W. McConnell of Montreal, for the research of the Institute, and a half a million from the Donner Foundation for brain chemistry.

That was good, but the work outstrips support even with multiple grants. You see, we more than doubled the size of the building in 1954, and have six laboratory departments instead of two.

Dr. Detlev Bronk

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We could do so much more - establish a more full-time basis of practice and research - establish a good department of clinical psychology. Curiously enough, we are hard pressed, and we have explored Canadian sources without success.

Investigation of the brain will go on yielding information of the greatest importance to man for a thousand years or more. There must be a hard core of permanent support. I don't need to persuade you of that. I am sending you a copy of our Annual Report.

I think it is fair to say that this Institute, which was a venture, a gamble, by the Rockefeller Foundation in the first place, has been a success in the short time of the past twenty-five years. The success was due to team work, and the team is stronger than it ever was. Ted Rasmussen is in the saddle. He is ready to make the application. I believe that it can become an ever-increasing success, but I have said enough, perhaps too much. Please let me know what you think. Which way shall we turn?

Helen and I are visiting Jeff and Cathy on the 14th., Saturday. Perhaps we can inspect the plane tree on Sunday before going on to Princeton.

As ever yours,

WGP/DR