

July 7th, 1944.

Dear Colonel Currie,

In further regard to our telephone conversation of this morning on the subject of the Montreal Neurological Institute, I should like to suggest to you formally that the government make a contribution toward the cost of erecting a permanent wing instead of spending the amount already suggested on the temporary conversion of the Field House.

A new wing would accommodate at least fifty additional patients, while the Field House could at best accommodate only forty-five. The new wing, if full priorities in labour and materials were obtained from the Federal government, could be in operation by December 31st next if all external trimmings were postponed until after the war, while the completion of the Field House would not in all probability be possible before late October or early November. The delay would therefore amount to no more than two months, and although this is important it should be considered in juxtaposition to the financial amounts involved.

In this latter regard it is estimated that the proper conversion of the Field House, with attendance facilities, would cost approximately \$130,000, all of which expenditure would be a net loss at the end of the war since more money would have to be spent on reconverting the Field House to its original purpose. The best estimates that I can obtain suggest that the cost of erecting a new wing on the Neurological Institute would amount to between \$350,000 and \$375,000. This expenditure would have long-run usefulness since it would establish the Montreal Neurological Institute on the basis of a 100 bed unit for post-war operation. The figure of construction cost is, however, abnormally high because of the difficulties and scarcities of materials encountered at the present time. I would imagine that before the war something like a quarter of a million or less would have been sufficient to cover the erection of such a wing, and on this basis, it would seem reasonable for the University to postpone any action if nothing more than our own interests were involved. The matter becomes urgent because of the need for treating cases from the Armed Services, and in view of this fact I should like to suggest that the government give to the University the sum that it would have to spend on the reconversion of the Field House, allowing the University to use this as a contribution towards the capital cost of the new wing. If the Dominion government were willing to do this the Board of Governors would have to find between two hundred and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars from its own funds.

Naturally I cannot commit the Board of Governors which has not at the present time considered this matter along these lines,

but I feel reasonably confident that the Board would be willing to appropriate the sums mentioned above for this purpose if the government made a contribution of funds and guaranteed the highest priorities so that the building could be carried to completion in the shortest possible time.

If the construction is to be promptly carried out it is vitally important that we should make full use of the summer and autumn weather, which means that operations would have to begin immediately. The Chancellor has therefore called a meeting of the Executive and Finance Committee for the latter part of next week, and it would be very helpful to us if you could let me have some statement regarding the attitude of the government prior to that meeting.

With renewed good wishes to you as always, I

remain,

Cordially yours,

A new wing would accommodate at least fifty additional students, which would be a great advantage for the University. The new wing, if full provision in labour and materials were obtained from the Federal Government, could be in operation by December. But next if all extra work was postponed until after the war, while the completion of the Field House would not in all probability be possible before late October or early November. The delay would therefore amount to no more than two months, and although this is important it should be considered in juxtaposition to the financial amounts involved.

In this latter regard it is estimated that the proper conversion of the Field House, with attendance facilities, would cost approximately \$1,300,000, all of which expenditure would be a net loss at the end of the war since more money would have been received from the Field House to its original cost of \$1,000,000. It can be obtained suggest that the cost of erecting a new wing of 100,000 sq. ft. would amount to between \$250,000 and \$375,000. This expenditure would have long-run usefulness since it would establish the Montreal Neurological Institute on the basis of a 100 bed unit for post-war operation. The figure of construction cost is, however, abnormally high because of the difficulties and uncertainties of materials encountered at the present time. I would imagine that before the war construction like a quarter of a million or less would have been possible for the erection of such a wing, and on this basis, it would be possible for the University to postpone any action if nothing were done on our own interests were involved. The matter becomes urgent because of the need for treating cases from the armed services, and in view of the fact I should like to suggest that the government give to the University the sum that it would have to spend on the reconstruction of the Field House, allowing the University to use this as a contribution towards the capital cost of the new wing. If the Dominion government were willing to do this the Board of Governors would have to find between two hundred and two hundred and fifty thousand dollars from its own funds.

Copy to The Chancellor  
Dr. Penfield  
Mr. Bentley

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