

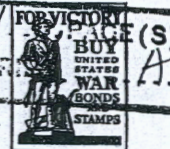


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WAR DEPARTMENT

P. O. Box 2610  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*2 additional 1/12/55*

REFER TO FILE No. \_\_\_\_\_

20 June 1944

HISTORICAL

Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer,  
P. O. Box 1663,  
Santa Fe, New Mexico.

CLASSIFICATION CANCELLED  
PER DOC REVIEW JAN. 1973

*4/6  
Bacher  
Boiler*

My dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

This refers to your proposal to develop the one kilowatt water boiler for use as a strong source of neutrons for experiments at Y, as proposed orally to me last week and in the memorandum from Dr. Fermi and Dr. Bacher, dated 14 June 1944, and as discussed further in the teletype from Fermi and Bacher to Tolman, YC 808 dated 19 June 1944.

Our main and actually our sole interest at this time lies in procuring, at the earliest date possible, the necessary but small number of the final gadgets, properly designed and fabricated. Hence, any proposed project has to be examined to see if the effort involved will make the greatest possible contribution to that end if applied to that particular project.

From the teletype Fermi and Bacher appear to feel that the water boiler project will make such a contribution to the desired end. If you, after further reflection and discussion, strongly feel the same way then we should go ahead with the proposed project.

In this general connection, I suggest that you and your colleagues should continuously keep on the lookout for places where personnel and effort may be diverted from interesting but not vital work to the urgent problem of getting a workable final gadget at the earliest date. This, as I know you agree, is at the present time far more important than getting a more refined gadget at a later date.

Please let me know your plans on the boiler.

Sincerely yours,

*L. R. Groves*

L. R. GROVES,  
Major General, C. I.

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*LMR* OCT 29 1980

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