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Friday, October 27, 1939.Professor Ernest O. Lawrence, University of California.

Last summer Mr. Rainey of Texas visited Lawrence at Berkeley for two days, and recently had L. as his guest for one day at Austin. R. offered L. a post as Vice President of the University of Texas with the particular responsibility of promoting the development of all of the scientific interests of the University. R. apparently painted a very rosy financial picture to L., reporting that the University has an income of from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 annually from its oil holdings. From this income they have a present endowment of \$30,000,000. The principal cannot be used, but L. understood the interest to be available for any purpose. For about the next five years this interest will annually be used to retire certain obligations incurred in connection with previous buildings, but subsequent to that time (when the endowment will have reached about \$50,000,000) the income will be free. L. also understands that R. has succeeded in interesting various wealthy Texans in the University and speaks of a recent gift or pledge of about \$4,000,000 which R. hopes eventually to increase to some \$12,000,000. (Copy to a nm. 92. aug)

We talk over at some length L.'s plans for a 100,000,000 to 200,000,000 volt cyclotron. On this visit East L. has discussed this with a large number of persons, such as K. T. Compton, Frank Jewett, Alfred Loomis, and others, and has received unanimously enthusiastic support for the project. C., for example, when reminded that he might be embarrassed in giving L. any backing because of ambitions of MIT, said that this was a unique project which would be essentially without competition, that he considered it the most important and exciting project in physical science now known to him, and that he would be willing to give it his backing as such any time that was desirable. When Rainey was trying to lure L. to Texas, he flatly stated that Texas would build L. the new cyclotron if that were a condition of his coming. When L. reported this to Sproul, S. said that the University of California could not itself guarantee \$750,000 for this project, but that he was nevertheless willing to accept personal responsibility for one-half of the sum if L. could get the other half elsewhere. WW urges on L. the desirability that the organizational plan for such an instrument be such as to give immediate and complete assurance that, although it might be located at the University of California, this is an instrument which was being built for all science. WW also urges that the project is so important that L. should carefully guard against initial presentation of it on too small a scale. Thus the preliminary memorandum which L. sent to WW, and which indicates a total of \$750,000, takes no account whatsoever of the operating program for the instrument. Having in his own mind the example of the 200" telescope, WW urges that the operating program over a period of at least 10 to 15 years be explicitly provided for in the scheme from the outset. If this project is to go forward at all, the success of attempts to finance it will not, WW feels confident, be effectively aided by too cautious an initial estimate. It is WW's own conviction that the project is much more likely to demand and warrant \$1,500,000, of which perhaps \$500,000 would be required over a 10 to 15 year period for operation. Jewett suggested to L. that he felt sure the National Academy would be glad to undertake the sponsorship of the project, if that seemed desirable. EB (Copy to ARM, JD, AMJ)