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CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON

Geophysical Laboratory  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

ARTHUR L. DAY  
DIRECTOR

January 13, 1934.

ADDRESS

2801 UPTON STREET

Doctor Max Mason, President,  
Rockefeller Foundation,  
61 Broadway,  
New York, N. Y.

MM	1/15/34	1/17
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Dear Dr. Mason:

You will be interested in the following exchange of telegrams which took place yesterday between Dr. Hale and me.

"Corning finding it practically impossible to hold back publicity now that one hundred twenty inch disc has leaked out. Stop. Prefers authentic publicity to present sniping. Stop. Recommend authoritative publicity to begin with pouring large disc using Pathe Blakeslee and Corning publicity man. Please wire reply to me in Washington. (Sgd.) Arthur L. Day."

"We fully appreciate the situation and request you or Corning to prepare authoritative statement and supervise the entire procedure. Kindly send me a copy in advance if possible and let me know when the large disc will be poured. (Sgd.) George E. Hale."

For your information also I will add that I was in Corning yesterday and went over the situation with those more immediately concerned. No one among the officials of Corning Glass Works knows the origin of the leak on the 120" disc. It appeared first in a local paper in the nearby city of Elmira. Since then the pressure has come in an avalanche from all directions. With this background the telegrams will probably be self-explanatory.

The only defense we have had against this avalanche has been to withhold the date of pouring the 200" disc. As a matter of fact no date has been set; partly in order that no date might leak out and partly in order that we might complete in proper deliberation the detailed arrangements for the pouring. With things as they are, even with arrangements made in advance to admit Pathe and the Associated Press and with a considerable amount of publicity material prepared in advance, defensive tactics are still necessary now that the 200" disc has become a national issue.

Let me add that there is no present plan for anyone to come on from Pasadena to see the pouring. Quite apart from the spectacle which is of a kind and magnitude to be worth witnessing, I would like very much if

Dr. Max Mason - 2.

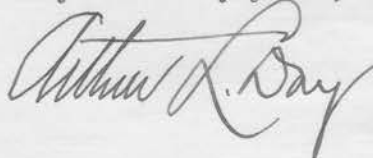
you could arrange to attend. May I therefore ask you what is the minimum notice which you might require in order to insure your attendance, assuming that the pouring date falls in the first half of February.

Doubtless you know that Dr. Pease, of Mt. Wilson Observatory, recently spent a day in Corning examining the 120" disc. I was not present and did not see Pease afterwards, but Corning men report that he was very much pleased with what he saw and said that he was now assured that the 200" disc would be successfully built and that he would now proceed to construct the framework for it.

Beyond this I have no information of interest later than your own contact with Corning in the autumn. Whether the 120" disc will be shipped out of Corning before the 200" is poured, I do not know. It depends in part upon decisions from Pasadena. The disc is crated now and Dr. Pease has given his approval to the manner of crating. However, the top and bottom covers of the disc have been left off until the last moment so that it can be studied to any extent necessary before shipment. Examinations of strain thus far made at points deemed more or less critical reveal none of any magnitude worth considering.

With best wishes for the New Year, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arthur L. Day". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Very sincerely yours,".

ALD/jao