

25 January, 1968

Walter M. Tisdale
Service Bldg. "A"

President Evan R. Collins
Administration Bldg. #249

Campus Progress Report No. 116

A set of working drawings for the Planetarium - Accelerator that will be used for invitations to bid the building have been completed, and were mailed on 19 January to the Construction Fund. We have not yet received our copies but they should be here momentarily. The architect has already been instructed to advertise for bids on 31 January. It is their intention to allow one month for bidding and we contemplate a bid opening on 1 March.

There is a possibility that if sufficient bidders do not show interest, the bidding period would be extended two weeks for greater competition. In either case, we should be able to commence construction as soon as weather permits, provided we are fortunate enough to receive a competent bidder that comes within the funds allocated.

Central Office is still taking a hard line on making no allowances for excessive construction costs in this area. This requires us to compete with all other areas without any preferential treatment and is really a most unrealistic handicap. I mention this because I feel that even if the bids do not come within the funds allocated, we have great equity that could be used to make a case with the Central OFFICE FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS. While I don't like to lean upon this possibility, we certainly shall have to exhaust it if we are not lucky with our bids. One good thing in our favor is that because of the smaller size of the building, we expect to see greater interest shown by a great many more local contractors, who can handle jobs in the million and one-half price range. They also are better equipped to handle the local labor market.

I will keep you posted on the outcome of all these developments.

Cc: Dr. C. Luther Andrews
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