Draft--12/4/57

MEMORANDUM

Re: Foundation-University Policy

We should not assign people to evaluating the University research because:

1. If the Foundation worked too closely with the Research people in the University in attempting to evaluate their work we would inevitably give some direction to the work. It is better to leave it free and not commercially direct it. By this approach the University people will uncover more basic concepts and the developments will be of more fundamental importance.
2. Many people on the staff are jealous of their own work. They do not want it discussed with others. They might object to our being involved in the consideration of their research's before they are ready to talk about it. That is before they have gone far enough in their own thinking to establish their own scientific priority.
3. The present system of not trying to ~~praise~~ appraise the research in the University until the people have come to us for advice has worked very well. The staff people have been very grateful for this method of handling and very complimentary to us for the way we operate. The implication of what they have said is that if we solicited or required the assignment of inventions coming from that work there would be violent objection to it. the new policy.

It should be possible however and proper to better advise the staff people of the University of what we do and the merites of the system of private enterprise which involves patents. Letting them know such things as:

1. What things can be patented
2. What is involved in a successful commercial venture and the odds of success vs. failure
3. The importance of the Foundation in successful development of a new idea

There appears to be no doubt about the validity of the private patent system and the validity of the Foundation's system of operating. There should however be a better communications between the Foundation and the University which might involve more frequent meetings with the Administration people and department heads, that is, the people who would be contacted by inventors for advise with respect to the disposition of their inventions. It would also probably be desirable to get out a brochure to the staff advising them of the A, B, C's of the patent system and what it's significance is to the general economy and to the University and what is involved in commercializing patents.