

July 30, 1937

Dear Brandt,

Thanks for your long letter of July 13. I am afraid the proposal of moving to the States must be regarded as definitely off this time. I am, of course, quite a bit disappointed, as to have made a good job of crop forecasting in such an area as yours is just the sort of major problem I should like now to undertake, and, apart from the chance of doing you a good turn, I had looked forward to working with you on a job which would have called out what capacity there is in both of us.

I have never suggested that Ames could arrange for me to work at another institution. The guarantee I wanted was from the U.S.D.A. that they would give equivalent support to another institution offering to house the work if I were compelled, by reasons of health, to leave Ames. From the point of view of the U.S.D.A., whom alone this stipulation concerns, this does not seem an extraordinary requirement, since it merely stipulates the terms on which my services to the Department might be continued in the only contingency which seemed to threaten their continuance; for, if I took a post at Ames and we failed to adapt ourselves to the climate, I should certainly leave the post and take one elsewhere, in England or America, and without this

provision this might be an injury to plans on which an amount of Federal money would already have been spent. I did not even ask the U.S.D.A. to find a suitable institution anxious to accommodate us; for, if I have the matter right, the Federal government were putting up most of the salaries and expenses, and on these terms a good many Universities would, I think, be glad to accommodate such a research unit as is contemplated.

You speak of canvassing the field a bit to find another school. This would, I am afraid, be useless if Washington has refused my request, and if it is willing to accept it I cannot conceive why they should not let me know of their decision.

I wonder what Deming has in mind. He was extremely inhibited when I saw him in Washington, but I didn't gather that it had any such special cause as your letter suggests.

I am very glad to hear that you may be going ahead with a crop prediction project. I feel quite sure that the principal obstacle is official ignorance as to what is now scientifically possible, and the best cure is to get something concrete done on a limited problem.

Barring the kind of contingencies one habitually ignores, Norton's appointment at the Galton Laboratory is now quite certain, and indeed the College may by now have braced itself to writing officially. As at your end, they have, of course, been waiting for other appointments decided before Easter to be officially sanctified. I am

sure you are right to act practically, though not officially, as though he had resigned already.

Mrs Fisher, who is on holiday with me at the seaside, sends her kind regards to Mrs Brandt and the kids.

Yours sincerely,

R.A.FISHER.