

S.J.C. May 7.

Dear Fisher,

Fowler asks me to pass this on to you. The printed statement inspired me to ask Bristol some questions, which can be inferred, I think, from the repletion. Comrie lately charged me £400 for an interpolation job that I could have done in about three days myself. & Lenox-Congleton (who had to pay) was rather annoyed about it. I'm not much struck on the "new problem" myself - it seems to be equivalent to testing for a departure from normality, which

doesn't require this elaboration. But,  
it's not urgent apparently.

yours sincerely

Harold Jefferys.

May 20th, 1979

Dear Jeffreys,

I was rather horrified when I found Wishart's application to the Government Grants Committee. The problem proposed seems, indeed, one of very trifling importance, and a long list could be made out of numerical tables of greater value for statistical applications.

I am also inclined to object on principle to Government grants being paid over to the "Scientific Computing Service", since there must be many who, if encouraged by a small government grant, would carry out more important work in their own laboratories.

The allusion to the Admiralty seems to be a side wind, too vague to be given any weight, e.g., no evidence is adduced that the Admiralty are not satisfied with their existing methods, or that they would have any use for the proposed tables.

As an estimate of variability the range is extremely crude and inefficient, and the example Wishart gives from field experimentation is so artificial that I presume it has never occurred in Wishart's experience

and has merely been invented to support the application.

On principle I am sure the application should be refused.

Yours sincerely,