

December 8, 1960

Senator John F. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

This is in reply to your letter of November 29. I was sorry, of course, but not surprised to receive your resignation as Chairman of the Visiting Committee of the Harvard Astronomy Department and Observatory. Naturally, I understand. And I am grateful to you for the services that you have already performed.

Where previous Chairmen have generally asked me to write their reports for them with the excuse, "Oh, Don, you know so much more than I do about it," you -- a much busier man -- not only wrote your own report but prepared it most carefully, as I realize from the various conferences we had during its preparation.

I hope that, if time does permit on one of your visits to Cambridge, that you will visit Harvard Observatory and see our new Space Laboratory, jointly occupied by us and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

In any event, I shall hope to see you from time to time, in Washington. And I repeat my willingness to help in any way that I can. I shall, in any case, take the liberty of passing on to you any suggestions that may occur to me.

Since my memorandum concerning the National Security Agency may have become misplaced during the campaign, let me repeat that I have been a consultant to this agency and its predecessor for thirty years. I served in it actively during World War II, as a Commander in the Navy. I am one of the few people who has had continued service and contact with its varied activities.