

Hughes

NATIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
NORTH INTERIOR BUILDING
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1938.

President Henry M. Wriston
Brown University
Providence, Rhode Island

My dear President Wriston:

In a study on research that I am laboring on for the National Resources Committee it has occurred to me that other colleges might do well to try to secure the research laboratory of an industrial association to be located on or near their campus. On a visit to Lawrence College last Spring, I was greatly interested in the work of the Paper Research Laboratory. There, of course, you have this sort of thing at its very best. However, I regard all these association research laboratories with great interest. It was a real regret to me that the laboratory of the laundrymen, cleaners, and dyers which is located in Illinois was not near our campus at Ames, Iowa. I feel sure we could have been useful to it and that it would have stimulated work on our campus.

The purpose of this letter is to inquire whether you took the initiative in bringing the Paper Research Laboratory to Lawrence, or whether the initiative came from the trade. Any reaction which you have on the idea of encouraging such laboratories to locate on or adjacent to liberal arts colleges would be very interesting to me.

I was greatly impressed by the quality and work of Lawrence College and was pleased to see that you left the Institution under the Presidency of a capable young man.

With my kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

R M Hughes

R. M. Hughes
Consultant, Committee on
Survey of Governmental
Relations to Research

For the Chairman

February 14, 1938

President R. M. Hughes
National Resources Committee
North Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear President Hughes:

Lawrence College organized the Institute of Paper Chemistry as an affiliated institution, with the same administrative officers as the College and an interlocking board of trustees, but an independent financial organization. It was one of the fundamentals of our plan that we should not have any association tied up with it, and while the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, and the American Paper Association, and the Rag and Pulp Association, and many others have contact with the work there and have occasionally made contributions or have sent research projects, the Institute remains an entirely independent organization under its own control.

I believe, of course, that such laboratories are of the greatest possible service to industry and that they are also of real service to the institutions where they are located. They do require a very careful setup and very careful management - otherwise the institution finds itself losing direction of its own policies, and research tends to degenerate into minor technical improvements, the range of study tends to be short range instead of long range, and the scientific work applied science wholly instead of attacking fundamental questions.

Barrows is doing brilliantly and has already achieved many things which with the caution of experience I had hesitated to attempt.

I hope that it will be possible for you to come to visit Brown. I would greatly value your counsel on many points. With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Henry M. Wriston