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DEPARTMENT OF EMBRYOLOGY  
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*Willier*

April 19, 1976

Professor Viktor Hamburger  
Department of Biology  
Washington University  
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

Dear Viktor:

Your letter of April 13 arrived just as I was about to dictate the following:

There will be a public announcement in due course, but I thought you should be one of the first to know that before the close of 1976, I will be relinquishing the directorship of this Department to move to Woods Hole where I will be the first full-time residential President and Director in the 89 year history of the Marine Biological Laboratory.

After nearly 21 years in this Department, I still think of myself as a developmental biologist. I hope, in fact, over the next decade to develop a new center for the study of the "reproductive ecology" and developmental genetics of marine organisms. At the same time, I am becoming increasingly interested in the development of institutions.

For nearly 21 years I have enjoyed a degree of freedom and level of support that is almost unmatched anywhere in the world. Leaving will be a difficult, indeed heartwrenching experience. I am confident, however, that the Staff Members of this Department will continue to be creative without me, and I devoutly hope that in my new role, I, too, can continue to serve the Nation effectively.

Now that I have that off of my chest, let me turn to the questions raised in your letter.

Helen Willier's address is simply Bigfork, Montana 59911. Alma and I have been hearing from her from time to time, and to the best of my knowledge, she is well and happy. I will write to her, as you suggest, inquiring whether she received your letter and suggesting (very gently) that you would like very much to hear from her.

I have in my possession all of Benjie's critical correspondence in three or four file drawers. The material was drawn upon by Watson in

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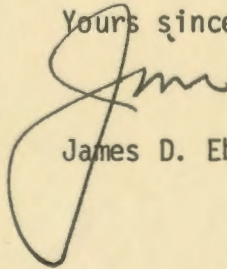
preparing his memoir. Unfortunately, there is very little in it of a personal nature covering Benjie's early years. I will have this material only a few months, possibly only until mid-June when I intend to deposit it at the Johns Hopkins University library. It is at your disposal, of course, and if you could possibly find a way of coming to spend a day, we would be delighted to see you.

I do hope that I will be here when you call this week. I intend to be in the laboratory on the 19th and 20th, but I will be leaving for the American Philosophical Society meetings on the 21st.

Your letter was the first I had heard of Ernst Hadorn's death on April 4. I am distressed. I had spent a number of hours with Ernst at a meeting in Martinique January 25-30. He did not look well, but his comments and questions at the conference came out booming and critical as always. I will miss him.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Ebert', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'James D. Ebert'.

James D. Ebert

JDE:jmb

$$\frac{107000}{10280} : 2570 = 40$$

$$\frac{100000}{100} : 2500 = 40$$

$$\frac{90000}{8710} : 2570 = 3$$

$$\frac{90000}{7710} : 2570 = 35\%$$

$$\frac{100000}{900} : 25 = 36$$