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**SNYDER LABORATORIES**  
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May 28th, 1953.

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer,  
The Institute for Advanced Study,  
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Oppenheimer:

In a call to the Institute yesterday, I discovered that Prof. von Neumann is away for the summer and, therefore, thought that I should address this letter to you.

I believe that Prof. von Neumann has discussed with you the status of a Patent Disclosure for Static Magnetic Memories submitted to the Institute by Dr. Ralph Slutz and myself in 1947. Prof. von Neumann has written that the Institute can put this patent in public domain and, thereby, perhaps eliminate any possibility of claims of infringement by later inventors.

Since our discussion, a private organization has offered to prosecute this patent and to purchase the commercial rights therefor from Dr. Slutz and myself. Such a transaction appears to have been anticipated during the time we were both employed at the Institute because one of the conditions of employment was the retention of commercial rights to any patents by the inventors. Whether or not the Institute would assume the responsibility of prosecution in such cases was not clear. However, in this instance, such a question does not arise. Indeed, the prosecution of a patent in this manner should save the Institute considerable effort and expense.

Naturally, both Dr. Slutz and I would like to realize any profit we could from our efforts. However, in these matters, there may develop some obstructions to private prosecution. If there should, we would then like to have the invention placed in the public domain. This is a case of one wishing "to have his cake and eat it", but in view of the lack of interest of everyone concerned in the matter until now, its eventual outcome is probably of little interest to all but the inventors.

May I have your views in this matter? I greatly appreciate the Institute's offer to take the trouble to place the invention in public domain and hope that such effort will be unnecessary. My thanks to both you and Prof. von Neumann for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

*Richard Snyder*  
R. L. Snyder, Jr.

RLS;mts

*Electronic and Electro-mechanical Devices*