

Dear Jim;

Following our conversation around 6:00 PM Tuesday, September 18; here is a written recollection.

During January 1987, you were going through the halls of the Science building asking people their favorite element. There had been a notable paper in solid state physics suggesting that a specific class of compounds with a specific crystalline structure (perovskites) could be superconductors. The composition was not quite right, however. That paper won the Nobel Prize for its authors, I believe.

I suggested Yttrium in a jocular tone. Yttrium is an element close to the ~~the~~ rare ~~the~~ earth elements, used in specialized applications for electronics and a moderator for nuclear reactors; yet it has no wide commercial use. Clearly it was just the thing for high temperature superconductors.

you with me that it was an excellent choice. However you decided it was a good choice on the more rational grounds that yttrium fit the lattice structure closely.

During the next few days I visited your lab and asked how the work on an yttrium superconductor was going. You did not have yttrium on hand and mentioned the necessity of getting more from ~~the~~ Nasa; I believe it was specifically from the Space Sciences Lab.

I mentioned yttrium to Dr Wu and he smirked at the possibility. He seemed to think it was a ridiculous idea and was faintly scornful of me.

Late January on a Thursday or a Friday I stopped by your lab. I assisted you in calculating the elemental composition of samples you prepared when



we went to a lab on the North end of the Science building up on the second or third floor. The room had Sartorius balances. You were measuring elements to two or three place accuracy on a scale of grams. The samples included yttrium. I believe there was a picture on the wall in the style of the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition.

Dr Wu, yourself and a graduate student from Taiwan were working in the lab at that time as I recall.

That day I recall sitting in the class room across from the graduate students' office studying or grading papers. I stood up for a moment and walked to the door for a moment. I saw you coming down the hall with a Dewar flask. ~~The~~ You were going to refill it with liquid nitrogen as your lab's supply was exhausted.



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You refilled the Dewar with  $2 \text{ N}_2$  and returned to your lab. You were quite excited at the time saying your samples were transitioning to a superconducting state at a temperature above liquid helium and liquid hydrogen. I didn't hang around your lab as you were very busy ~~and~~ and Dr. Wu didn't really want me there.

Late that afternoon I called you from my dorm room and you said you had definitely achieved superconducting state at a higher temperature than ever accomplished before, above  $4 \text{ H}_2$  temperature. Dr. Wu then spoke to me asking that I not speak about it to anyone until it was verified as it would be bad for his reputation; if it was a false alarm.

That weekend you and Dr. Wu went off to Houston with your samples. I was somewhat surprised as previously



I had ~~no~~ indication Houston was in close association with VAH. Universities and Research Institutes in general were intensively researching the properties of the new class of superconductor compounds yet I wondered why Houston in particular.

In any case Houston could only verify your achievement; superconductivity at temperatures approaching the boiling point of  $LN_2$  ~~was~~ was accomplished by you first.

During the succeeding weeks and months I followed the story of high  $T_c$  superconductors with interest. I was quite surprised that the sequence of events ~~that~~ described in the media did not match my personal view of events.

I will be quite happy to make a statement or deposition if you need it.

I will be ~~staying~~ staying with mom until the 28th of september at least.

When you get my letter call me: (1-601-453-6703). My address is

2 ALTA Vista Circle  
Greenwood, miss  
38930,

In ~~the way~~ talking with you memoirs from the period surface.

I would like for the true facts to be on the record as far as possible.

Jones Hamilton

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Ph: Excuse my penmanship, I am  
 writing on a notepad in my lap.  
 I've been sitting up with mom and  
 it's 1:00 Am.