



2 November 1994

Professor W.T. Coffey

Sir Melvyn Rosser, Chairman
The Committee of Selection
The University of Wales
Aberystwyth
Old College, King St.
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Wales

Dear Sir Melvyn

Thank you for your letter of 17 October. I have known Myron Evans since 1974 and have collaborated with him on a number of occasions, the most recent being in connection with his 3 volume set of *Advances in Chemical Physics* (Wiley-Interscience, New York) entitled *Modern Nonlinear Optics*.

In my opinion he is one of the leading scholars in America and Europe having made significant contributions in the study of relaxation phenomena and other related areas as evidenced by his published work in Journals such as *The Physical Review*, *The Journal of Chemical Physics*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London etc* and by his award of the Meldola medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry. In particular to refer to my own research area, he was one of the early pioneers of the study of the far-infrared dielectric absorption of polar fluids. He was successful in attracting substantial SERC funding for this research during his period at Aberystwyth. This work has proved to be a major catalyst for further progress and has greatly stimulated my own research. He would maintain a very strong research program in any University of which he would be in charge and is no mean academic manager on both human and material levels.

He is an excellent lecturer who is capable of inspiring tremendous enthusiasm in his audience as I vouchsafe from personal attendance at seminars given by him. In addition, he has trained a number of leading researchers, e.g. Gareth Evans and Colin Reid whose work I have the highest respect for.

He has a deep if somewhat unorthodox (and all the more valuable for that!!) appreciation of current issues in higher education. For example he was very critical of the policies pursued by the British Government in the 1980s towards higher education - one outcome of which was the closure of the famous Edward Davies Chemical Laboratories. These criticisms with hindsight have proved to be absolutely right - since such policies have *inter alia* reduced previously highly regarded honours degree programs to mere technical training courses. He would reverse these undesirable changes if appointed Vice Chancellor. Indeed, the majority of us at Trinity are particularly concerned that such changes should not cross the Irish Sea!

He is a native Welsh speaker with a deep and abiding interest in Welsh language (particularly poetry), culture (I recall attending the 1979 Eisteddfodd with him) and socio-economic issues which affect Wales, so admirably fulfilling the conditions laid down in the penultimate paragraph of the particulars of the post.

I warmly recommend him to you.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

William Coffey

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Feb. 19, 1993

Prof. M.W. Evans
Department of Physics
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Charlotte, N.C. 28223
USA

Dear Prof. Evans,

Thank you for your letter and preprints. I am interested in your work. Could you please send me other papers relevant to the one you sent to me to study in more detail. The experiment seems to be extremely difficult, but it is interesting.

Thank you in your advance.
With best regards,

Sincerely yours,



Takayoshi Kobayashi