

there is considerable merit in the pending petition to reserve Channel 37 for exclusive use in radio astronomy."

The radio astronomers of the country have been, and still are, more than willing to "go out and fight for their cause." If Greenberg can suggest other kinds of battles in which we might engage, we shall be only too glad to embark on them.

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My apologies to McVittie. I was not aware that he and his colleagues were so actively working for their cause. As for suggestions, since the cause is a just one, and laymen find radio astronomy quite exciting once it is explained to them, I think the opportunities for further missionary work in Congress are very promising. The Congress, after all, is extremely sympathetic to the promotion of science. I think it likely that instead of having just a handful of congressmen on your side, it would be possible to win the support of large numbers by simply investing a great deal of time in walks and talks through the congressional office buildings. Once again, though, my apologies, and good luck.—D.S.G.

The Littlest Astronomer

Once upon a time there were three astronomers who lived on top of a mountain. On this mountain was a large telescope for the astronomers to use. The biggest astronomer was a very intelligent theoretician, who knew *almost* all there was to know about the theories of the stars. The middle-sized astronomer was a very charming person who knew all the wonderful words needed to describe the stars. The littlest astronomer, who often listened to the other two, had learned a great deal, but he was mostly curious about what else could be found out about the stars.

One day the littlest astronomer looked out the window and said, "My, it looks as if we will have a clear night tonight. Who would like to use the telescope?"

"Not I," said the biggest astronomer, "I have to write applications in sextuplet for money to hire assistants."

"Not I," said the middle-sized as-

tronomer, "I have to prepare my television interview for tomorrow."

"Very well," said the littlest astronomer, "I will use it myself." And he did.

The following day the littlest astronomer, who was eating his breakfast while the other two were having lunch, said "I got some interesting observations of the stars last night. Who will help me reduce them?"

"Not I," said the biggest astronomer, "I have to interview five people today for jobs as my technicians."

"Not I," said the middle-sized astronomer, "after my TV interview I am having dinner with the mayor."

"Very well," said the littlest astronomer, "I'll do it myself." And he did.

And so the years rolled by. The biggest astronomer obtained lots and lots of money for his research, and he had lots and lots of people working for him who were discovering many interesting things about the stars. The middle-sized astronomer became very famous—his picture even appeared on the cover of a weekly magazine. But the littlest astronomer just spent his time at the telescope and in his office. Because of this he was the one who answered the telephone when the dean of the near-by university called.

"Who would like to help some students with their research?" asked the littlest astronomer.

"Not I," said the biggest astronomer, "I'll hire them as my assistants, if they wish, but I haven't time to look over their own studies."

"Not I," said the middle-sized astronomer, "but I could probably recommend them for a good position when they have finished."

"Very well," said the littlest astronomer. "I will do it myself." And he did.

The students came and studied hard. They were fortunate to be able to listen and learn from all three of the astronomers who lived on the mountain, and in the process of time they left to become astronomers living on other mountains all over the world. The littlest astronomer was sorry to see them go.

After many years, when the three astronomers were very old, the president of the country in which they lived came to visit them.

"My, what a wonderful observatory you have here!" said the president. "Do you operate the great telescope every night?"

"Yes," said the three astronomers at once.

"I have seven assistants," said the biggest astronomer, "each one gets two nights a month to observe for me."

"I always pose for the pictures," said the middle-sized astronomer, "whenever any newsmen want stories of the telescope."

"Oh yes," said the president, "I have read them myself."

"I use it too," said the littlest astronomer.

"And what do you do with the measurements you make here at night?" asked the president.

"I have a staff of fifteen assistants to compute the important data we obtain. I try to be here to look over the final data, but usually I'm very busy with administrative details," said the biggest astronomer. "Then my staff of writers compiles the data and I publish it."

"Yes," said the president, "I have seen what a long list of publications you have. You must be the greatest astronomer in all the world!"

"I report these findings to the general public," said the middle-sized astronomer. "Without their support we would not be able to have this fine staff of assistants."

"I have a few students who help me," said the littlest astronomer.

"Well, well," said the president, "I would be greatly honored if you would dine with me and my cabinet. My Minister of Science would like to meet you," said the president to the biggest astronomer, and turning to the middle-sized astronomer he added, "and my Minister of Public Relations would like your autograph." Then the president, being a very cultured and gracious gentleman, turned to the littlest astronomer and said, "You can come too."

"We would love to," said the biggest and middle-sized astronomers simultaneously.

"No thank you, sir," said the littlest astronomer. "It is a clear night and there will be no one on the mountain but me. I shall use the telescope."

And the littlest astronomer took his leave of the other astronomers and the president. In the twilight the others could not see that he was smiling to himself as he walked to the telescope.

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