Dear Foster,

Foster asks me to pass this on to you. The printed statement inspired me to ask several very
questions, which can be inferred, I think, from the replies. Comrie lately
charged me £40 for an interpolation
job that I could have done in
about three days myself. I asked
Comrieham (who had to pay) was
rather annoyed about it. I'm not
much struck on the "new problem", myself
— it seems to be equivalent to trying
for a departure from normality, which
doesn't require this elaboration. But it's not urgent apparently.

yours sincerely

[Signature: Harold Jeffreys]
Dear Jeffreys,

I was rather horrified when I found Wishart's application to the Government Grants Committee. The problem proposed seems, indeed, one of very trifling importance, and a long list could be made out of numerical tables of greater value for statistical applications.

I am also inclined to object on principle to Government grants being paid over to the "Scientific Computing Service", since there must be many who, if encouraged by a small government grant, would carry out more important work in their own laboratories.

The allusion to the Admiralty seems to be a side wind, too vague to be given any weight, e.g., no evidence is adduced that the Admiralty are not satisfied with their existing methods, or that they would have any use for the proposed tables.

As an estimate of variability the range is extremely crude and inefficient, and the example Wishart gives from field experimentation is so artificial that I presume it has never occurred in Wishart's experience.
and has merely been invented to support the application.

On principle I am sure the application should be refused.

Yours sincerely,