

# F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS  
David L. Hill, Chairman

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## '54 RESEARCH BUDGET -- DEFENSE DOWN, NON-DEFENSE STEADY

### SENATE PASSES DISARMAMENT RESOLUTION

In making his claims for the USSR H-bomb program on Aug. 8 (as we go to press), Malenkov said American actions belied President Eisenhower's statement of principles on armament limitation in his Apr. 16 foreign policy address. A week earlier, however, these principles took on a broader base when, in spite of the legislative jam as the 83rd Congress hurried to close its first session, the Senate took time to debate and pass a "disarmament resolution." A special Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee, headed by Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R, N.J.), considered versions introduced by Sens. Jackson (D, Wash.), Flanders (R, Vt.) and others. It had been hoped that the Smith subcommittee would hold public hearings, and FAS testimony was in preparation.

### WATERED-DOWN VERSION

In the press to adjourn, however, the planned hearings were sacrificed. The subcommittee reported a version which omitted bolder proposals and combined less controversial elements which had general support. In the Senate debate, an amendment inserted verbatim the President's five principles. The resolution as passed July 29 states:

"...that it continues to be the declared purpose of the US to seek by all peaceful means the conditions for durable peace and concurrently with progress in this respect to seek, within the UN, agreements by all nations for enforceable limitation of armament in accordance with the principles set out in the President's address of Apr. 16, 1953, namely--

"(1) the limitation, by absolute numbers or by an agreed international ratio, of the sizes of the military and security forces of all nations; (2) a commitment by all nations to set an agreed limit upon that proportion of total production of certain strategic materials to be devoted to military purposes; (3) international control of atomic energy to promote its use for peaceful purposes only and to insure the prohibition of atomic weapons; (4) a limitation or prohibition of other categories of weapons of great destructiveness; and (5) the enforcement of all these agreed limitations and prohibitions by adequate safeguards, including a practical system under the UN--

"to the end that a greater proportion of the world's productive capacity may be used for peaceful purposes and for the well-being of mankind..."

### STIMULATE ACTION ?

The extensive Senate debate and passage of this somewhat emasculated resolution nonetheless contrasts with 1951 when Flanders' disarmament resolution failed to reach the Senate floor. This may indicate an increased awareness in the Senate of the need for active steps toward enforceable disarmament. The House of Representatives took no action during this session, though some 50 Representatives had introduced resolutions similar to the Flanders or Jackson versions. It will probably consider them and may hold public hearings when Congress reconvenes. The 1951 disarmament proposals in the Senate stimulated President Truman's program "foolproof disarmament" and resulting UN disarmament discussions. Perhaps passage of the new Senate resolution will lead to redoubled efforts by the administration for progress toward guaranteed disarmament and will promote public discussion of proposals made by the FAS Committee on Disarmament and Atomic Control, in particular a renewed study of the present technical possibilities for control.

Preliminary examination of Congressional appropriations for fiscal 1954 (beginning July 1, 1953) shows a heavy cut of 18.5% in funds authorized for Dept. of Defense research and development. R & D budgets in Army, Navy and Air Force have all been put to the knife -- total authorized funds dropping from \$1,035 million in '53 to \$843.6 million in '54. Participating in the cut is the Office of Naval Research with its large basic research program. ONR is granted only \$58.6 million this year in comparison with \$70 million last year.

### NON-DEFENSE SLIGHTLY UP

No corresponding sharp cut appears in non-defense activities. A cross-section of 9 non-defense research items in 5 different departments, representative of the agencies summarized in Table I (p. 3), shows a 5% increase in authorized funds. Department of Agriculture research in 4 sampled bureaus also is up 5%, with the Office of Experiment Stations up nearly 8%. The 7 constituent institutes of the Nat. Institutes of Health (general operating funds of the NIH as a whole excluded) received an increase of 21.5%. A good part of this increase is for expanded operations involved in NIH's new Clinical Center, but some of it doubtless will appear in grant programs as well. The National Science Foundation moved up from \$4.75 million in '53 to \$8 million in '54. In fact, outside of Defense, the only activities in this preliminary survey showing cuts are the AEC's reactor program (down 5.5%), the Nat. Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (down 5.5%) and the Nat. Bureau of Standards. The last-named, already buffeted by the AD-X2 controversy and reduced in size by administrative transfer to Defense of its military-supported ordnance program, took a whopping 22.4% cut in its direct appropriation (from \$8.23 to \$6.4 million).

### FUTURE PROSPECTS

Comparison of the requests of the Truman and Eisenhower administrations and the actions taken by Congress are interesting as a guide to future prospects in federal research financing. Again, defense and non-defense research and development show different patterns (Figures 2, 3; p.3). In Defense, the Truman budget recommended a relatively small increase from \$1,035 to \$1,087 million. The Eisenhower estimates cut this to \$914 million and Congress cut still more deeply to \$844 million. The non-defense cross-section of 9 representative items totalled \$138 million in 1953. The Truman budget recommended a relatively large percentage increase to \$161 million. The Eisenhower estimates cut this to \$140.5 million -- roughly in status quo with the '53 appropriations -- but Congress raised the figure to \$145 million. Included in this cross-section are three items in medical (Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

Research & Development Appropriations '54/'53

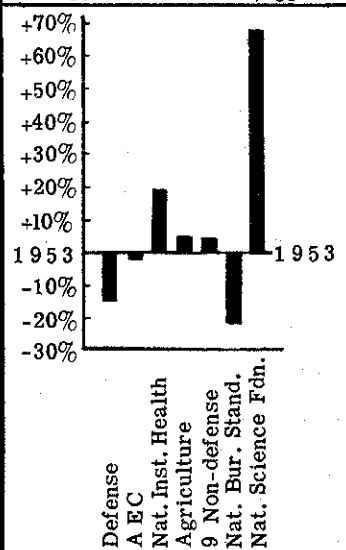


FIGURE 1

# OVERHAUL THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT ?

## JOINT COMMITTEE HEARINGS

At public hearings of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, now recessed, Gordon Dean predicted the attainability of competitive production of atomic power in "a very few years -- certainly less than ten." While urging Congress to amend the Act to encourage industrial participation (see NL, June 22), Dean has emphasized that the expense of even a prototype power plant is so great (\$10 to \$15 million), and the likelihood of profitable operation in competition with coal and water power so small, that during the next "few years" the AEC should build and operate prototype reactors.

**AEC ROLE IN POWER** In testimony before the Committee, others agreed that the development of pilot plant installations would have to be carried out by the government until nuclear technology has advanced to the point where a corporation can be reasonably sure of profitable plant construction and research. Walter Zinn, director of the Argonne National Lab., and Alvin M. Weinberg of Oak Ridge both urged the construction by the AEC of an experimental atomic power plant of sufficient capacity to permit solution of engineering problems encountered in large-scale operation.

Chauncey Starr of North Amer. Aviation was more optimistic on private investment, testifying that "a reactor program which would provide pilot plant experience would require approximately 5 years and have a total cost of about \$10 million, including the cost of development." John R. Menke, president of Nuclear Development Assoc., also argued against exclusive government development of A-power, on the ground that government subsidy would not be "best for the growth" of the new industry. George Weil, formerly of the AEC Reactor Devel. Div., urged still a third approach -- that private foundations might be persuaded to sponsor the task of development of competitive power.

**ATOM AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS** Although the date of profitable domestic sale of atomic power is a point of controversy, Gordon Dean pointed out that certain foreign markets where coal is plentiful but expensive to extract are the "ones from which you will probably get your first economical power." In his last press conference as AEC chairman, Dean urged revision of the Act to "give the Commission the flexibility it needs to deal with other countries, particularly our allies and our friends who are supplying us with raw materials we need for our weapons program." Undersecretary of State Walter Bedell Smith testified that American development of atomic power is "of paramount importance to our international relations. It would be very damaging to the position of the US if another country were to be first in this field of endeavor."

**SECRECACY** Dean further urged that nuclear power technology be declassified as far as is consistent with security requirements. The President likewise has publicly supported revision of the Act to permit wider declassification of atomic information. He also favored sharing this information with our allies, but did not comment on exchange of information which would remain classified. Dean has advocated exchange with Britain of certain military information to facilitate joint planning.

**HOLIFIELD RESOLUTION** Rep. Holifield (D, Cal.), at the close of the Joint Committee's recent hearings, introduced a joint resolution (H.J.Res. 317) which would declare it to be the "sense" of the Congress that (1) the AEC should "vigorously promote" the peacetime applications of atomic energy, as well as reactors for submarines, aircraft carriers and aircraft, (2) the AEC should declassify the maximum amount of information useful for industrial and other purposes consistent with security requirements. (3) the AEC should make a detailed report on the declassified technical facts and the political, economic, and other ramifications of peacetime atomic power, and (4) that the Joint Committee should continue to study through public hearings "if necessary" the principal issues involved in proposed revisions of the Atomic Energy Act. The objective of the resolution seems to be to have the issues presented to Congress and the public before legislation is reported.

## FAS DEBATES POLICY

Formulation of FAS policy on possible revision of the Atomic Energy Act continues. Spade work was done by the FAS Committee on Atomic Energy Legislation and Industrial Power, located in Chicago and chaired by B. I. Spinrad. The Committee produced a draft policy which was circulated to Council delegates and others for study and comment. On the basis of replies received, the Committee prepared a "short statement." Meanwhile, an independent study has been made by the Mohawk chapter (MASE). The Chicago report tends to be "conservative" and the MASE report "liberal" toward proposed revision of the Act to permit private investment in atomic power facilities. Differences in opinion among FAS members appear to concern not only the pros and cons of proposed changes in the Act, but also the definition of the limits of interest and competence of FAS in this many-sided issue.

**AGREEMENT AREAS** The two reports are in virtual agreement on objectives: early attainment of a healthy atomic power industry free from monopolistic control and consistent with the requirements of world peace. There is at least qualitative agreement that federal development of large-scale power plants will have to continue in the absence of reasonable prospects for profitable domestic commercial operation.

Both reports favor "the maximum relaxation of secrecy measures consistent with national security" (Chicago) since "such data are essential to those working on peacetime power applications" (MASE). Changes in the Act to permit export of peacetime atomic energy devices are also advocated in both statements. The MASE report opposes any subsidy to producers of fissile material "in the form of a guarantee by the government to purchase such material at an artificially high price." Although not covered in the Chicago short statement, the full report is in agreement on this point.

**DIFFERENCES** Principal differences relate to the necessity for revision of the Act to permit private ownership of plant facilities, patents and fissionable materials. The Chicago report "finds little in the McMahon Act inconsistent with the peacetime growth of atomic energy" and suggests that "revisions be scrutinized carefully." The full draft report of the Chicago FAS Committee opposes private ownership of fissile materials. It is neutral on the issue of private patents and urges postponement of private ownership of reactor plants. The MASE draft would allow "private ownership of patents on inventions of a non-military nature that have been made at private expense," private ownership of reactors and "probably" of fissile materials, all subject to government licensing.

A postulate of the MASE report is "the US economic pattern...to let private industry carry out the development of natural resources and new technology insofar as it has been able and willing to do so" subject to some government regulation. The Chicago group is apprehensive lest hasty revision of the Act, to put the primary responsibility for peacetime atomic production in industrial hands, might cause Congress to fail to continue to give the AEC development program sufficient support. They also suspect that a monopolistic situation would be difficult to avoid if plants and patents were turned over to private hands before secrecy had been relaxed and small firms which are not now contractors for the AEC have had time to take advantage of the granting of franchises and other privileges.

Fortunately, the largest area of agreement among FAS members on the revision question relates to the problems of most immediate importance: the progressive declassification of power reactor technology and study of methods to allow private enterprise to participate in the export market, which offers more immediate hope for profitable competition of A-power with conventional fuels and water power. Perhaps the most controversial point in the FAS debate over this question will relate to a proposed revision of the Act, but to the matter of FAS jurisdiction. The final point of the Chicago short statement suggests that "some of the suggestions for modifications of the McMahon Act involve political questions on which the FAS cannot speak for its members."

# FEDERAL RESEARCH BUDGET FOR '54 SUMMARIZED

(Continued from Page 1)

research, an area which uniformly received sympathetic treatment from Congress.

**BASIC RESEARCH** The prospects for basic research cannot be fully appraised from the figures provided in budget estimates and appropriations. The \$3.25 million increase to NSF will go largely to basic research and some part of the expanded budgets of the Nat. Institutes of Health will probably show up in biological research. Against this must be set the decrease, much larger in absolute amount, in Defense R & D.

The recent NSF report, "Federal Funds for Science, I" (Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, DC; 30¢), estimated that the Defense contribution in 1952 amounted to about half of the \$71 million spent by the government on basic research done outside of government agencies. If the overall Defense R & D cut of nearly 20% is applied it would cost basic research some \$7 million, considerably more than the gains which may be expected under NSF and NIH. To this must be added the probability that Defense research administrators, in reducing their programs, are likely to protect the projects closest to their primary mission.

These considerations suggest that available funds for basic research may be cut fairly substantially under the '54 budget, despite the reluctance of Congress to cut non-defense research and its willingness nearly to double the funds for NSF. The paradox arises, of course, from the "subterfuge financing" practiced since the war, with basic research supported not in its own right but by funds bled off from Defense.

**PEAK PASSED?** Several tentative generalizations appear warranted from the preliminary survey. First, support for total federal research and development is probably starting down from its post-war peak. Agencies whose appropriations totalled \$1,429 million in 1953 received \$1,262 million this year, a drop of roughly \$170 million or 12%. Whether this is the first decrement in a declining curve is not clear, but there are strong indications in this direction. The intent of the new administration was not fully expressed this year as it only partially revised the budget prepared by the old administration. There is some suggestion that even this year an effort will be made to spend less money than Congress authorized. This is particularly true in the Defense Dept. where Sec. Wilson gave instructions to withhold from obligation 25% of the authorized funds pending review. The Secretary recently was much criticized for his comment in Senate testimony, "I am not interested, as a military project, in why potatoes turn brown when they are fried."

Moreover, Congressional appropriations committees expressed considerable concern over free-wheeling research spending. For example, Sen. Homer Ferguson (R, Mich.) complained about the "magic word, 'research'" in questioning Defense officials on their plans. Said the Senator, "It really works magic here on the Hill. You can get almost anything if you just call it research. Then you can even aid it by adding the word 'development' on the end of it. I am really fearful of those words when it comes to appropriations, because I know the great magic of the words."

**DEFENSE FUNDS UNSTABLE** Second, defense-connected funds are likely to be uncertain in the future with year-to-year instability in relation to the changing international picture. Effects of this probably will fall on physics, psychology, and certain specialized social science areas which have been heavily dependent on defense funds.

TABLE I

Comparison of Research and Development Appropriations for 1953 and 1954 (in millions of dollars)

AGENCY	'53 APPROP.	'54 APPROP.	% CHANGE
Atomic Energy Commission			
Reactor Development	92.86*	87.75	-5.5
Physical Research	38.90*	38.90	0
Biology & Medicine	25.20*	26.57	+5.4
Weapons	253.09*	299.83	+18.5
Agriculture (Ag. Res. Admin.)			
Office of Exp. Station	13.19	14.20	+7.7
Research in 4 bureaus	20.57	21.67	+5.3
Commerce			
Nat. Bur. of Standards	8.23	6.40	-22.4
Coast & Geodetic Survey	12.54	12.75	+1.7
Weather Bureau	27.24	27.00	-0.9
Defense			
R & D (Army)	440.00	345.00	-21.6
R & D (Air Force)	525.00	440.00	-16.2
Office of Naval Research	70.00	58.60	-16.3
Health, Educ., & Welfare			
Nat. Inst. of Health (total of 7 individual institutes)	54.72	66.49	+21.5
Interior			
Geological Survey	25.36	27.75	+9.4
Fish & Wildlife	4.30	4.46	+3.7
Nat. Advisory Committee for Aeronautics	66.29	62.44	-5.5
Nat. Science Foundation	4.75	8.00	+68.5
Cross-Section (9 non-defense agencies)	138.05	144.99	+5.0

\* Estimate

**FOCUS NSF** Third, federal support for basic research probably will continue to shift toward and concentrate in the Nat. Science Foundation, and at an accelerated pace. Some question had existed on this point pending clarification of the new administration's attitude. But Sen. H. Alexander Smith (R, N.J.), author of a bill to remove NSF's statutory budget limitation, placed in the record a letter from J. M. Dodge, Budget Director, giving administration support to the bill and urging a \$12.25 million appropriation for NSF. Dodge wrote, "These steps are taken in furtherance of the policy of this administration to centralize in the National Science Foundation the Government's programs for support of basic research, which are now carried out by several agencies. It should be made clear, however, that other agencies will be allowed to support basic research which is directly related to the solution of problems for which these agencies have statutory responsibility."

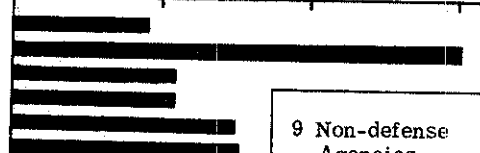
**NSF LIMIT LIFTED** Probable effects of this policy statement appeared in the closing hours of the Congressional session, which saw passage of the Smith-Aiken-Wolverton bill to remove NSF's appropriation limit. Full effects, however, will not be seen until the fiscal '55 budget is submitted to Congress next winter. Estimates for NSF may be expected to move steeply upward with compensating adjustments for other agencies.

FIGURE 2

Millions of Dollars

130 140 150 160

'53 Appropriation  
Truman Budget  
Eisenhower Budget  
House Bill  
Senate Bill  
'54 Appropriation



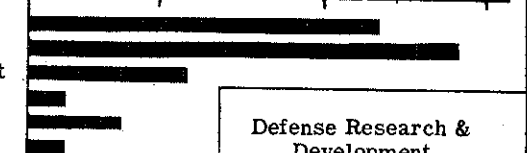
9 Non-defense Agencies

FIGURE 3

Millions of Dollars

820 900 1000 1100

'53 Appropriation  
Truman Budget  
Eisenhower Budget  
House Bill  
Senate Bill  
'54 Appropriation



Defense Research & Development

## SURGERY on NBS

Events related to the Astin affair since the last News-letter include: (1) Bureau of Standards dismembered by transfer of its ordnance activities to the Defense Department; (2) NBS direct appropriations for research and testing cut 22.4%, in sharp contrast to the trend for other government non-military laboratories (see p. 1); (3) Senate Small Business Committee's hearings on AD-X2 suspended prematurely without conclusive results. A. V. Astin is still temporarily directing a demoralized group of scientists until reports of the Kelly, Jeffries, and NBS Visiting committees are finished, the first expected next month.

**FUNDS HALVED** Transfer of NBS ordnance research and development to the Army and Navy, under general discussion for a year or more, was announced by Commerce Sec. Weeks and Defense Sec. Wilson in a joint statement on July 24. The move was made on the personal recommendation of Dr. Mervin J. Kelly (N. Y. Times, July 25); it was said to be in line with the discussions of the Kelly committee, but no recommendation by the committee itself has been mentioned. The ordnance work comprised about half of NBS' operating budget of \$50 million in 1953, and involved 1600 of its 4800 employees in Washington and Corona, California. NBS has been doing ordnance development -- guided missile, proximity fuse, etc. -- since World War II, with funds transferred from Defense. Observers saw the transfer as not necessarily a bad thing if adequate provision were made both for the ordnance program and for NBS' other work. There was, however, some surprise at its timing.

The NBS direct appropriation was cut from the Eisenhower budget figure of \$8.11 to \$6.40 million. The amount of transferred funds from military agencies is uncertain but is expected to be far less than last year's \$15 million (excluding ordnance). The size of the NBS operation must, therefore, be reckoned upwards from the \$6.4 million figure rather than downwards from \$50,000,000.

**COMMITTEES AT WORK** The Kelly committee is charged with evaluating "the present functions and operations of the Bureau of Standards in relation to the present national needs." The committee has supposedly finished its study and is drafting its conclusions, expected next month. The Jeffries committee on AD-X2 testing is proceeding at a slower pace. Its responsibility is to "appraise objectively the Bureau's work in this particular area, this study to include tests both laboratory and field." The committee met July 15-16 and will again convene next month, though no report is expected until at least later in the fall. Its job is not to decide the worth of AD-X2 but to appraise NBS tests.

**AD-X2** The AD-X2 hearings by the Senate Small Business Committee June 22 to 26 failed to attract much publicity and were suspended before the appearance of eight scheduled witnesses, several of whom "were known to be sympathetic" to NBS (Chem. & Eng. News). Witnesses included Ritchie (battery additive manufacturer), Weber (MIT), Astin and a number of users. Not heard was Laidler (ex-consultant to Senate committee). The hearings avoided the central issues of the Astin ouster as well as even a layman's appraisal of testing methods. The committee, for instance, was not interested in receiving even for the record a new detailed report of NBS tests. Except for some questioning by Senators Smather and Humphrey, the emphasis was on testimonials, motivations, veracity and minutiae (see Chem. & Eng. News for more details).

Later, Chairman Thye formally asked the Post Office Department why a mail fraud order was issued against the manufacturer of AD-X2. The order had been suspended in March at the behest of Sec. Weeks. Sen. Thye said he, personally, thought it should be revoked. The only other news has been allusions to Navy tests with submarine batteries; the nature and outcome of the tests, and their significance for this probe, are not clear.

Astin's future is still undecided, though Weeks has never admitted the possibility he will not be replaced. Astin was retained until the Kelly committee reports, so that he would be able to assist the committee's work. Presumably the decision will not be delayed until the report of the Jeffries committee, the only group studying the only stated reason for Astin's dismissal.

## PROBE PROBITY

The 83rd Congress, widely dubbed the probingest Congress in history, is becoming increasingly apprehensive of the dangers of too much probing. On one front, Rep. Carol Reece (R, Tenn.) is concerned over an investigation of Congress which he believes is to be undertaken by the staff of the Ford Foundation, an organization sponsored and financed by the Ford Foundation. The stated purpose of the Fund is "to appraise the status of basic rights in America today and to develop a program that might contribute to the solution or alleviation of major problems in this area."

This seemingly mild threat brought an angry denunciation from Rep. Reece in a speech on the House floor: "It would seem that because of the large sum provided for this task the Ford Foundation considers the investigations of Congress highly important. This intention of the Ford Foundation constitutes an insult not only to the Congress of the US but the American people as well, since this body is the representative of the American people. It is up to the House to meet such a challenge by establishing a new special committee for thorough and complete investigation of the Ford and other foundations."

**HERE WE GO AGAIN** Mr. Reece's colleagues did not let him down. The Reece Committee was authorized to cover the same ground as the Cox Committee, which gave foundations a relatively clean bill of health during the past session. Mr. Reece also documented the principle sometimes apparent in Congressional investigations, that the accused is guilty until he can prove himself innocent. He stated, "The foundations must be investigated in terms of the above mentioned statements of fact [a series of allegations regarding propaganda activities of the foundations] and should be given an opportunity to try to disprove them."

On Aug. 7, Rep. Reece stated in an interview with reporters, "I'm not in any sense of the word 'anti-foundation.' We simply want to make a thorough and objective study of the question with a view to being helpful, and not hurtful." It was also revealed that three members of Reece's 5-man committee -- Reps. Hays (D, O.), Pfost (D, Idaho), and Goodwin (R, Mass.) -- voted against authorization of the present investigation.

**TO CONTROL INVESTIGATION** Meanwhile, members of Congress are increasingly recognizing that the responsibility for miscreant probers rests on the shoulders of the whole Congress. With the assumption of this responsibility has come a spate of resolutions designed to govern the investigative proceedings of Congress. Resolutions incorporating ground rules for the probers were introduced by several Congressmen, including Sens. Kefauver and Morse, and Reps. Javits, Dies, and Keating, but when the dust settled after the first session of the 83rd Congress, none of these measures had been acted on by the committees to which they were referred.

**JENNER REPORTS** On July 17 the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee -- the "Jenner Committee" -- issued a 36-page report, "Subversive Influence in the Educational Process," covering their work begun in 1952 under Sen. McCarran. More than 100 witnesses in the field of education were heard in public session and many more in executive session. 82 educators about whom the subcommittee had evidence of Communist Party membership refused to answer questions, claiming the protection of the Fifth Amendment. Three witnesses admitted Communist Party membership, but declined to supply all details asked. Twenty were responsive witnesses, according to the report. The more controversial cases are discussed in considerable detail, with excerpts from testimony.

The subcommittee reports that it "is concerned with showing the leaders of our schools where this alien conspiracy [Communism] is hidden." Its overall function, said to be to assess the need for "additional legislation against new and undefined crimes," contrasts with a detailed objective expressed a "to expose secret members of the Communist network by [the Committee's] power to administer oaths and by its power of subpoena and its power to punish for contempt of Congress." A conclusion of the report is that a teacher, by invoking the 5th amendment, "violates his trust and forfeits his right to shape the character of our youth."

## about UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

[The world-wide and multitudinous activities of the UN and its specialized agencies are documented by the UN Department of Public Information, whose publications are on sale at the International Documents Service, Columbia University Press, 1960 Broadway, N.Y. 27, N.Y. The Press publishes a monthly "International Reporter" which lists titles of current releases.]

The general council of UNESCO has elected Luther Evans, former Librarian of Congress, as Director-General to succeed Dr. Torres-Bodet of Mexico, who resigned last November. Evans is the first US citizen to hold the UNESCO directorship. Though no other candidate was nominated, Evans' election was vigorously opposed, not on personal grounds but because UNESCO members are generally edgy about an American as head.

**INTERNATIONAL LOYALTY** Distrust of American "witch hunting" came sharply into focus when the US delegation proposed loyalty investigations of American employees in UNESCO. Protesting the US proposal, the Swiss delegate declared that it threatened the liberty and independence of UNESCO. Faced with hot opposition and possible defeat, the US delegation agreed to accept a modification of the original proposal drafted by a special committee. The conference version, according to Evans, empowers him to discharge any UNESCO employee proved guilty of subversive activity against a member country. More recently, Evans is quoted as saying he will oppose Washington's efforts to influence the hiring and firing of American employees through loyalty investigations. "Any dismissals," he said, "will be based on facts alone, not simply the request of a government."

**STORM OVER ENRC** Sponsorship and furtherance of the European Nuclear Research Center (ENRC) at Geneva, Switzerland has been a major project of UNESCO. Nine countries have now signed a Convention providing for establishment of the Center. The laboratory, which will cost about \$23,000,000, is to be devoted to non-military research, primarily high-energy particles and cosmic rays. Recently, ENRC has become a storm center with the Swiss Communists bitterly but unsuccessfully opposing its location in Geneva and the French Communist press charging that it is an instrument of "American imperialism in the scientific field."

The international agreement on ENRC was signed on July 3 nonetheless. In announcing the signing, the New York Office of UNESCO said, "It is designed to pool the resources of European countries to create a research base for modern physics comparable to those in the US, something no Western European country could possibly finance alone...It is to be used exclusively for pure scientific research and not in the military use of atomic energy. All results will be published and made freely available...The Nuclear Physics Center will mark the first occasion that European States have set up a body responsible for organizing active scientific research in common."

**TECHNICAL HELP CUT** Last year the US contributed \$12<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> million to the UN Technical Assistance Program. As this is written, this year's contribution is not yet known, but is reportedly much lower. An unnamed high official is quoted by the Christian Science Monitor of July 27, "To cut the technical assistance program by half would leave the world from Indonesia to Libya strewn with unfinished projects, each of which would be a monument to remind people of the broken promises of the West."

A lowered US contribution would be particularly unfortunate now. The UN Dept. of Public Information announced on July 15 that the USSR had declared its willingness to begin contributing both funds and experts to the UN expanded program of technical assistance. According to the UN announcement, "A. A. Arutunian (USSR) told the Council his government was prepared to do this in order to develop the natural resources, agriculture, national industries and to raise the standard of living of underdeveloped countries, thus assuring their economic independence -- without the technical assistance being in any way tied up with economic or political advantage for the contributors."

## F A S I N A C T I O N

FAS information services have kept pace with the busy months just passed. Officers and members in policy or action positions have received 13 Information Bulletins in the past 3 months reporting promptly events important to FAS and distributing basic documents. These Information Bulletins have been made available on subscription (see coupon below) and have already more than paid their way. The Washington Office also has had an increased number of requests for information from FAS chapters and members, government and Congressional sources, the press, and civic organizations.

**MEMBERSHIP INCREASES** The rolls of FAS have grown more than 15% in the last three months, both chapters and the member-at-large category. As a result, FAS' financial status for this time of year is now firmer than at any time since 1946. The increase in FAS activity is still ahead of the membership increase, and the organization is straining its mechanism of operating largely with volunteers. Every member last week was sent a copy of the new FAS brochure, and urged by Chairman Hill to enlist a new member.

**ACTION ON ISSUES** FAS has directed letters to Congress and the new administration on many issues on which FAS has policy. Several letters were sent concerning NSF appropriations and the Smith-Aiken-Wolverton bill to lift NSF's statutory appropriations ceiling. Chairman Hill also communicated to the President the continued necessity for civilian custody of atomic weapons. Sec. Dulles was written the FAS position on international control of atomic weapons, specifically urging a new study of the technical problems involved at the present stage of atomic armament. Another letter to Dulles called attention to the continued importance of the Berkner report and of State's Science Office. Visa Committee chairman Weisskopf has written FAS views on non-immigrant visas to all members of House and Senate Judiciary committees.

In a press release on July 8, Hill commended President Eisenhower's stand on liberalization of US atomic information policy. In another release June 23, Hill agreed with the President's Dartmouth speech denouncing the book burners, but expressed regret at his subsequent partial retraction.

FAS chapters continue active. Chicago is completing its distribution of the Bulletin Visa issue to all Congressmen, with personal covering letters by FAS member constituents in most cases. More Washington members are active on national office jobs -- information, contacts and chores. Interest is revived at Los Alamos. Stanford recently prepared a radio show on visas.

The FAS is a national organization of scientists concerned with the impact of science on national and world affairs. This Newsletter is designed primarily to inform the membership and stimulate discussion of relevant issues. The facts and opinions contained do not reflect official FAS policies unless specifically so indicated. The Newsletter is edited by members of the FAS Washington chapter.

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## THE ATOM ABROAD

France is about to build a large plant in the Rhone Valley for the production of 50 to 100 grams of plutonium per day, according to B. Goldschmidt, director of chemistry in the French Atomic Energy Commission. The decision relates to a 5-year plan designed to produce sufficient plutonium to permit the subsequent construction of an atomic engine.

**RUM JUNGLE** The Rum Jungle Field in the Northern Territory of Australia is expected to produce its first shipments of uranium oxide in about a year. According to the N. Y. Times of July 14, Britain and the US, through the Combined Development Agency, have advanced more than \$2,250,000 during the last five months to develop the field. An equivalent additional amount will probably be required before the field becomes financially self-sustaining.

**POST-BERIA** A topic for speculation in connection with the ouster of Lavrenti Beria from the government of the Soviet Union has been its consequence to the Russian atomic energy program, for which Beria is thought to have been largely responsible in the past. According to the N. Y. Times (July 18) and the Christian Science Monitor (July 15), the recent transfer of diversified institutions and establishments to the newly organized Ministry of Medium Machine Construction, headed by Col. Gen. Vyacheslav A. Malyshev, may have transformed this ministry into the Soviet equivalent of our AEC.

**BRITISH OFFER A-TRADE** Great Britain has announced plans for a second series of atomic weapons tests in Australia next October, and has reaffirmed her willingness to trade atomic information with the US. Said Supply Minister Duncan Sandys in Commons on July 31, "We have more and more to offer on our side in any exchange of information. It would, in our view, not be a one-sided affair."

The AEC SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT to Congress for the first half of 1953 disclosed that the US is approaching "first major production" of materials for hydrogen bombs. A record amount of fissionable material was also produced, at the lowest costs in AEC's history. A third atomic-powered submarine is being developed which is expected to have a higher speed than the two already under construction. It was reported that last spring's atomic weapons tests in Nevada gave sufficient information so that it will not be necessary to hold full-scale tests there this fall as originally planned. \* \* \* NEW AEC CHAIRMAN is Lewis L. Strauss, a commissioner in 1946-50 and recently atomic adviser to the President. Joseph Campbell, Treasurer of Columbia, has recently been named to the AEC.

### F A S NEWSLETTER

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## WHEN THE SHOE'S ON THE OTHER FOOT

"In order that the visit of members...to the United States may maximize international friendship and goodwill, it is desirable that delegates not be unduly delayed in entering the United States under our immigration law and procedures. In some cases the delegations from free governments...may include persons who are, or have been, members of classes excluded by section 212 (a)(28) of [the McCarran Act]."

"...The resolution has been amended, therefore, to make special provision for the issuance of visas to bona fide members of the Interparliamentary Union. The amendment provides for entry for a period of 30 days only and does not confer diplomatic immunity on the delegates while they are in the United States. It is intended, however, that as far as entry into the US is concerned, the delegates will receive the courtesies and privileges which are accorded visiting diplomats, some of whom are, or have been, Communists."

Thus speaks Report No. 503 of none other than the House Foreign Affairs Committee on a resolution authorizing appropriations for the forthcoming Washington meeting of the Interparliamentary Union, an international non-government organization of legislators. Sen. Homer Ferguson (R, Mich.) is president of the American affiliate. The report justifies waiving the provisions of the McCarran Act barring aliens because of past or present association with proscribed organizations. The bill (H. J. Res. 234), including the waiver, was approved July 13.

### VISA CHANGES SUGGESTED

The only comprehensive bill in the 83rd Congress for revision of the McCarran Act was S. 2585, introduced on the last day by Sen. Lehman (D, N.Y.) and seven co-sponsors. Companion bills were simultaneously introduced by 24 Representatives. Lehman cited the loss to "scientific knowledge, business, and prestige" because of present regulations regarding non-immigrant visitors. Under his bill, a visa-applicant would be judged on character and record rather than "long-past and isolated incidents." There is provision for appeals, and also for waivers when in the interest of "national health and security."

Earlier, Rep. Charles S. Gubser (R, Cal.) had introduced two resolutions on visa policies as they affect visiting scientists and scholars. H.J. Res. 307 provides for (1) prompt decision by the consular official on such applications, and (2) review of unfavorable initial decisions by a State Department board which would include scientists and scholars. H.J. Res. 308 provides in addition that the Secretary of State may waive technical disqualification by virtue of proscribed associations when the attendance of a visitor at a conference or meeting in this country is in the national interest.

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