

F.A.S. NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
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New Developments in Atomic Secrecy. A move to give the public more facts about the secrecy-shrouded atomic energy program has begun in Washington. Senator Brian McMahon, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, has directed David Lilienthal, Chairman of the A.E.C., to prepare a report on whether the number of atom bombs in the U. S. stockpile should not be a matter of public knowledge. The United States has always followed a policy of complete information on the size of its military forces and Lilienthal has been asked to study the question of whether there is any difference between knowing the number of atom bombs in the U. S. Arsenal and the number of long range bombers or submarines in the Military Establishment. There is no intention of revealing any information on the construction and operation of the bomb or the processes used to concentrate the fissionable materials used in the bomb. Press reactions to this suggestion have been largely favorable and there is general agreement that the question deserves careful study.

The reactions of some of the Joint Committee members tended toward the opposite extreme. Senators Tydings and Connally felt that pictures of synchrotrons and other such information was too valuable for a potential enemy. Tydings was also very inquisitive about the reactor program of the AEC, which involves quite large capital expenditures. He explained that "we have got to make a decision whether to have a 70 group Air Force, a 48 group Air Force, or a 58 group Air Force, and there is only so much money to go around." Tydings is Chairman of the Senate Armed Forces Committee. Observers who were present were impressed by the lack of understanding exhibited by Tydings, Hinshaw, Connally, and others. It was decided to hold a secret hearing on the question of secrecy and a review of the fifth semi-annual report of the A.E.C.

In the meantime, the fifth semi-annual report of the A.E.C. has been released to the press and will shortly be available for public purchase through the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. This 212-page document contains considerable information on the subjects of New Reactors, Tracer Studies, Intelligence, Security, and Public Information, but the chief emphasis is on the production of fissionable materials and new weapon designs. The report should be carefully studied by all scientists for the material it contains, and the implications of excessive secrecy in this program should be considered. Lilienthal has indicated that further reports will be issued in the coming year on the subjects of nuclear propulsion for aircraft, the use of reactors as power sources, disposal of radioactive waste, a source book on atomic energy, and an atomic weapons handbook. Whether these reports are made public or not depends to some extent on reactions of the members of the Joint Congressional Committee and the continued educational work of the F.A.S. among these members and the general public. It is therefore necessary for scientists and others who have thought this question through to put their ideas on paper and use them in letters to their congressmen and local papers. Letters-to-the-editor columns of most local papers are generally made available to congressmen by their secretaries as an expression of public opinion.

Close the book on the Nucleonics editorial of last July, which considerably upset nuclear physicists and the F.A.S. (see general memo A-678, of August 19, 1948). The editorial proposed some rather drastic changes in the Atomic Energy Act of 1946. The editor of Nucleonics, Walter DeCew, has resigned, and it is understood that the present editorial policy of the journal is to steer clear of political questions.

National Science Foundation legislation, in the judgment of the Washington Association's Committee on the Organization of Science, will be enacted by this Congress regardless of what action the F.A.S. takes. The Federation has always urged passage of such legislation, but it can play a very significant role in securing much-needed amendments along the lines of the nine points of the resolution adopted by the Council in December, 1947. Of these the F.A.S. is stressing three points -- organization, scope, and the basis for distribution of funds.

Thus far, five bills have been introduced in the House, one in the Senate. Four of the House bills, H.R. 12, 185, 311, and 1845, and Senate Bill, S. 247, are minor variants of the weak-Smith-Wolverton bill, criticized by the F.A.S. last year. The other House bill, H.R. 359, introduced by Representative Celler, is the same as S. 1850 of the 79th Congress, which at that time passed the Senate but was not acted on by the House. The old S. 1850 was the compromise between the Kilgore and the Magnuson schools of thought.

The House bills have been referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, which has twice held hearings on the legislation in the past. It is possible that new hearings are planned by this group. The Senate bill, introduced by Senator Thomas, has been referred to the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, which Thomas himself heads. The Committee has decided not to hold hearings and is expected to report the bill out in the near future.

At every opportunity, the F.A.S. is urging (1) a form of organization for the Foundation more nearly like H.R. 359, in which most of the responsibility rests with full-time officials of the Foundation; (2) an amendment which would make it the duty of the Foundation "to maintain a continuous survey and evaluation of research programs carried on by government, university, industrial, and other research agencies, and to report annually to the President the results of such surveys and recommendations based upon them"; and (3) provision insuring the allocation of a portion of the funds in the scientifically underdeveloped areas of the nation.

Action on behalf of the Federation, by the very active committee of the Washington Association, has included (a) conferences with Senators Thomas, Humphrey, and Douglas, and with administrative assistants of Senators Fulbright, Kilgore, Magnuson, Humphrey, and Thomas; (b) conference with staff members of the Bureau of the Budget who are formulating policy on NSF legislation; and (c) writing a letter to each member of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare presenting F.A.S. views.

In the absence of any strong pressure to the contrary, the Senate will probably process S. 247 fairly rapidly and with few essential changes. It is surprising to see the 81st Congress concentrate on the bills of the 80th rather than the 79th Congress. This is particularly so in view of the President's veto of the Smith-Wolverton bill in its original version almost two years ago. Senator Thomas who introduced a bill like S. 1850 in the last Congress, apparently is willing to make S. 247 the basis for legislation and let the House initiate changes suggested by the President and many scientists. It is true that this Committee has other pressing business -- education, Taft-Hartley, etc. Others of the old line-up for a strong foundation (Kilgore, Fulbright, etc.) are following Thomas because of his dominating position on the Committee. However this is probably the most promising committee in the Congress for obtaining progressive legislation. Morse is known to be sounding out sentiment for changes in the bill; Pepper and Humphrey are also interested. The Committee may yet make changes before the bill goes to the floor, and further changes can still be made on the floor if there is sufficient expression of sentiment from scientists.

UNESCO's book coupon scheme, recently launched on a one year experimental basis, will enable scientists and other professional people in war-devastated countries to obtain needed periodicals and reference books from other countries, by making payments in their own currency. In each of the 13 participating countries, special Distributory Bodies have been appointed for the sale of book coupons. The program in the U. S. is being administered by the American Booksellers Association.

New Role for Scientists in Foreign Affairs. The now famous "Point Four" in the President's enunciation of the future foreign policy of the U. S., as stated in his Inaugural Address, calls for the use of science and technological skills in aiding other countries to improve their standard of living. Many men in the middle echelons of the State Department and some other departments have been working day and night since then to formulate such a program. Even if it amounts to no more than the stereotyped arrangements for natural resources surveys, special consultants, exchange students, etc., the world wide interchange of scientific personnel will be improved. A ferment of ideas exists in Washington right now which could easily put the scientist and engineer in a position to go abroad and apply his own skills and training not only to the improvement of living standards but also to the mutual problems affecting the communication of ideas across national boundaries.

Congressional Committees. Here are lists of the members of committees in the next Congress which will consider legislation of interest to scientists. Members newly appointed to committees are designated by (*); committee chairmen by (**). Address Senators at the Senate Office Building, and Representatives at the House Office Building, Washington 25, D. C.

The Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare is now considering the National Science Foundation Bill:

Aiken, George D. (R. Vermont)	* Neely, Matthew M. (D. West Virginia)
Donnell, Forrest C. (R. Missouri)	Pepper, Claude (D. Florida)
* Douglas, Paul H. (D. Illinois)	Smith, H. Alexander (R. New Jersey)
Hill, Lister (D. Alabama)	Taft, Robert A. (R. Ohio)
* Humphrey, Hubert H. (D. Minnesota)	** Thomas, Elbert D. (D. Utah)
Morse, Wayne (R. Oregon)	* Withers, Garrett (D. Kentucky)
Murray, James E. (D. Montana)	

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce will in due course consider the bills on the same subject:

Beckworth, Lindley (D. Texas)	Keogh, Eugene J. (D. New York)
* Bennett, John B. (R. Michigan)	* Klein, Arthur G. (D. New York)
* Biemiller, Andrew J. (D. Wisconsin)	* Linehan, Neil J. (D. Illinois)
Bulwinkle, Alfred L. (D. N. Carolina)	* McGuire, John A. (D. Connecticut)
** Crosser, Robert (D. Ohio)	O'Hara, Joseph P. (R. Minnesota)
Dolliver, James I. (R. Iowa)	Priest, J. Percy (D. Tennessee)
Ellsworth, Harris (R. Oregon)	Rogers, Dwight L. (D. Florida)
Gillette, Wilson D. (R. Pennsylvania)	Sadowski, George C. (D. Michigan)
* Granahan, William T. (D. Pennsylvania)	Scott, Hugh D., Jr. (R. Pennsylvania)
Hale, Robert (R. Maine)	* Stanley, Thomas B. (D. Virginia)
Hall, Leonard W. (R. New York)	* Sullivan, John B. (D. Missouri)
Harris, Oren (D. Arkansas)	* Underwood, Thomas R. (D. Kentucky)
Heselton, John W. (R. Massachusetts)	* Wilson, George H. (D. Oklahoma)
Hinshaw, Carl (R. California)	Wolverton, Charles A. (R. New Jersey)

The Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, composed of members of both houses, handles all legislation and considers policy about atomic energy:

<u>Senators</u>	<u>Representatives</u>
Connally, Tom (D. Texas)	Cole, Sterling (R. New York)
Hickenlooper, Bourke B. (R. Iowa)	Durham, Carl T. (D. North Carolina)
Johnson, Edwin C. (D. Colorado)	Elston, Charles H. (R. California)
Knowland, William F. (R. California)	Hinshaw, Carl (R. California)
** McMahon, Brian (D. Connecticut)	Holifield, Chet (D. California)
Millikin, Eugene D. (R. Colorado)	* Jackson, Henry M. (D. Washington)
Russell, Richard B. (D. Georgia)	* Kilday, Paul (D. Texas)
* Tydings, Millard (D. Maryland)	Price, Melvin (D. Illinois)
Vandenberg, Arthur H. (R. Michigan)	Van Zandt, James E. (R. Pennsylvania)

F.A.S. Meetings. Eleven of the twenty member associations were represented at the Council meeting in New York on January 30. Policy questions discussed concerned National Science Foundation, loyalty problems, and UNAEC. Considerable attention was given to internal problems, including the 1949 budget (\$6,660), financing (chapter dues to national organization set at \$3 per member), election procedures for members of Administrative Committee (amendment to Constitution and by-laws approved), organizational changes to give voting power to members-at-large, provide direct contact between all members and national office, provide for direct election of Administrative Committee (thorough discussion). An Elections committee was appointed (Brookhaven) and a Membership committee authorized. Copies of minutes are sent to member associations, and are available from the national office. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Saturday evening, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, 1949, in Washington after the spring meeting of the American Physical Society.

The Committee on Aid to Foreign Science of the F.A.S. has for the past several months been working on a program to help students from abroad undertake graduate study in the United States. If a small fraction of the numerous teaching and research assistantships in the science departments of American universities were assigned to foreign students, this, the committee felt, would be a significant contribution. The committee therefore sent a letter of inquiry to most of the larger departments in chemistry, physics, botany, zoology, and agriculture, and replies to date indicate approximately 100 positions can be made available, with an approximately equal distribution among the sciences.

The Institute for International Education in New York City has agreed to assume administrative responsibility for the plan. The Institute has had wide experience in these matters though not especially with regard to science. It maintains "screening committees" of responsible scholars in most of the countries of Europe who select suitable students from the large number wishing to come to the United States. The Institute has communicated with its representatives in Europe and the selection of students has begun.

The committee members are D. R. Charles, G. B. Collins, R. E. Marshak, W. A. Noyes, Jr., F. C. Steward, and J. Ashkin, Chairman, all of the Univ. of Rochester.

This Newsletter is distributed to all members of the local associations of the F.A.S. and to members-at-large, who are urged, if they have not already done so, to transmit their dues to their local association or to the national office, respectively. Interested non-members are invited to apply for membership.