

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS

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The problem of getting a newsletter out to all association members directly still seems to be an insuperable one for our office. Finances permitting, we shall get addressograph plates made for the lists as they come in. We have started negotiating for rapid printing service, and hope to get professional help in setting up a letter. Meanwhile this brief report on the Washington scene should help keep you informed. Member associations should complete their lists of members, and should send us local items which may be of general interest.

LEGISLATIVE SCENE

Except for hearing General Groves' testimony favoring military control (February 27) the McMahon Committee is now in executive session. There is grave danger that something like the May-Johnson bill may be reported out by senators "stirred by the spy plot uncovered in Canada." The spy hysteria could not have been better timed as propaganda against genuine civilian control if it had been deliberately planned for that purpose. There are some indications that committee members are being influenced favorably by the mail and telegrams urging civilian control. The response to our petition has been excellent - more than 4000 signatures reached our office in the ten day period allowed. The following organizations also endorsed our resolution: Americans United, American-Slav Congress, Friends of Democracy, Independent Citizens Committee of the Arts, Sciences and Professions, National Citizens' Political Action Committee, National Lawyers' Guild, Southern Conference for Human Welfare. These organizations combined represent many thousands of individuals.

In the Atomic Energy Committee hearings on February 15 Philip Morrison and others effectively answered the claims of de Seversky that a modern American city would hardly be touched by an atomic bomb. On the same day L. N. Ridenour testified on the impossibility of achieving security by means of secrecy.

The new Science Foundation Bill S.1850 will probably be reported out before the McMahon Committee acts. The battle over administration, a part-time commission versus a responsible administration with an advisory committee of scientists, as well as the fight over security provisions, may be one and the same for both pieces of legislation. Both are involved in the vital decision as to whether science is to be used for preparation for war or to advance cooperation for peace. Members are urged to obtain copies of S.1850, and be prepared to take action on it.

NAVY TEST

It is important that the public understand what damage to expect from the Navy Test. Any disappointment in the strength of the bomb may be used to extend apathy toward the necessity of control of atomic energy. On January 31, AP released a statement by Higinbotham pointing out the probable ineffectiveness of the test. An article by Bethe will appear in "Science Illustrated" predicting the damage.

MODEL EXHIBITS

Norman Bel Geddes has offered his services, on a non-profit basis, to make model exhibits illustrating aspects of atomic energy and the atomic bomb which we would like to emphasize. We would appreciate any suggestions along this line.

MARSHAK AND DEUTCH TO MEXICO

Marshak and Deutch made a trip to Mexico. They spoke over the Mexican radio and gave talks, illustrated with movies and Trinitite to the University of Mexico and the U. S. Embassy staff. They contacted Dr. Nabor Carillo and Dr. Manuel S. Vallartes to whom everyone is encouraged to send information concerning the activities of the Federation. These men may be reached through Dr. Burtney, Benjamin Franklin Library, Pases de la Reforma, 34 Mexico City, Mexico.

SIMPSON TO ENGLAND

Simpson has been sent to England by FAJ as an observer at the "Science and the Welfare of Mankind" conference, organized by the Association of Scientific Workers and other British scientific organizations. There will be delegates from France, China, Holland, and perhaps Canada and the USSR, as well as many other scientists. Simpson's trip was financed by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

FINANCE

The Federation of American Scientists is now incorporated in Washington, D.C. Copies of the incorporation papers will be sent out to the members as soon as they are available. Dues and gifts to FAMS are not deductible from personal income taxes, however, gifts to the National Committee on Atomic Information are deductible. We are now trying to raise money for both Federation of American Scientists and National Committee on Atomic Information. Though details of the arrangement are not yet settled, National Committee on Atomic Information has said it is willing to help finance our educational activities.

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The member associations including the four which applied after the initial formation of the Federation, are: Association of Cambridge Scientists, Atomic Scientists of Chicago, Association of Los Alamos Scientists, Association of Manhattan Project Scientists, Association of New York Scientists, Association of Oak Ridge Scientists, Association of Pasadena Scientists, Association of Philadelphia Scientists, Federation of American Scientists Rochester Association, Rocket Research Group, Association of Oak Ridge Engineers and Scientists, Northern California Association of Scientists, Dayton Association of Atomic Scientists. Organization is progressing in Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and Austin Texas.

MEMBERS IN WASHINGTON

Thompson, Magnuson, Hegemann, Sachs, Nickson, and Cahn have been in Washington. Sacher and Nickson worked mainly on giving dinners for key people in Washington. Thompson, Magnuson, and Hegemann covered the McMahon Committee hearings and Cahn has spent most of his time visiting Congressmen.

In addition to W. A. Higinbotham and J. H. Kush, working full time, Melba Phillips, from New York, is now here from Monday through Thursday each week. Joan Hinton, from Los Alamos, will be here for five or six weeks.

ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Meetings have been held by almost all the member associations on the issues involved in atomic energy legislation. In some localities large joint meetings with lay organizations have taken place or are being planned. Please send us reports on these meetings.

SPEECHES

Federation members have been talking not only before local groups but to large delegated meetings. There is no room here to report in detail, but this kind of activity accounts for a sizeable fraction of the time of your administrative committee.

It would be helpful to have a card file record of speeches, especially those before delegated groups.