

F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

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Donald J. Hughes, Chairman

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November 21, 1955

COMMUNICATION AND TRAVEL PROBED

U.S. PASSPORT POLICY UNDER REVIEW

The procedures employed in the issuance of passports and the right to appeal passport refusals came under scrutiny by the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, chaired by Sen. Thomas C. Hennings (D, Mo.). At hearings Nov. 15-16, the Committee heard testimony from Geoffrey F. Chew, FAS Passport Committee chairman; Nobel laureate Linus Pauling; and Judge William Clark, former chief justice of the Allied High Commission Court in Germany. R. W. Scott McLeod, administrative head of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, testified on behalf of the Department of State.

RIGHT -- NOT PRIVILEGE Last June, the US Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia ruled that passports are a "natural right" of the citizen rather than a "privilege." McLeod contended in his testimony that "we are giving Communists undue consideration" by rules of the Passport Appeals procedure, since such appeals have hitherto been restricted to cases involving charges that the applicant was a Communist or had Communistic leanings. In response to questioning by Hennings about administrative details in the handling of the Pauling and the Clark passport cases, McLeod said he would investigate whether or not such administrative procedural material could be obtained. In doing so, he risks a clash with both the Subcommittee and with the Executive branch, in view of the letter written by President Eisenhower during the Army-McCarthy fracas barring exposure of conversations among officials of the Executive branch and, by implication, of other Governmental departments.

Pauling, in his testimony, stated that it was "reasonable to conclude" that his Nobel Prize had "forced the State Dept." to issue him the passport denied him two months previously. He said he felt the "harassment" which he had undergone in his 3-year-long attempt to obtain a standard passport indicated "an unbelievable blindness and lack of understanding on the part of State Dept. officials." Amid general hearing-room mirth, he said "nearly every time I have come to Washington I have gone to the State Dept. and signed an affidavit saying I am not a Communist."

FAS URGES "DUE PROCESS" FAS representative Chew reviewed for the Subcommittee the cases of five scientists who had experienced passport difficulties.

He then set forth the recommendations of the FAS Passport Committee: a substantive point that "the passport should be recognized as a right of the US citizen, not merely a privilege, which may be denied only for reasons clearly relevant to national security," and a procedural point that "due process" rules should be more clearly spelled out and enforced.

Chew went on to say: "We believe that no special privileges need be accorded scientists; if due process were followed uniformly in passport procedures, we believe that the amount of interference with scientific travel would become unimportant. ... one of the basic difficulties in the present situation is that the State Dept. feels it is doing a favor to a citizen in granting him a passport; and quite naturally the Dept. is loath to do favors for people it doesn't like. If Congress were to establish that the passport -- as a permit to travel -- is a right of every citizen, which can be denied only by due process of law, the pressure on the Passport Division would be enormously relieved."

U.S. SECRECY POLICIES UNDER FIRE

Spokesmen for the press, science and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) spoke out early this month against the information clearance policies of the US government. One occasion was the 4-day hearings begun Nov. 7 before the House Government Information Subcommittee, headed by Rep. John E. Moss (D, Cal.). Purpose of the hearings, according to Moss, was to develop information on "a very confused situation" arising out of widely varying practices with respect to release of information by government agencies. J. R. Wiggins, chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Amer. Society of Newspaper Editors, referred in his testimony to the current "philosophy of secrecy" as a "scorched freedom" policy "to which no democratic people ought to consent."

ABUSES RAMPANT Prior to the hearings, the ACLU charged that abuses of authority to withhold news "were never so rampant as now." In a special report (N.Y. Times, Nov. 4), ACLU asserted that "these abuses have already curtailed the power of the press and of Congress itself to be of service to the people by finding out what goes on in government." Present practices were described as of "doubtful constitutionality," as a threat to civil liberties, and requiring "some prudent remedial action by Congress."

Ever since the Commerce Dept. set up its Office of Strategic Information, scientists and science editors have grumbled and complained. OSI was established to control the outward flow of non-classified technical data and "know-how" of value to the national defense. Its early regulations drew wide protest and have been progressively modified to place emphasis on "voluntary" cooperation. The situation is still unsatisfactory in the editorial view of Chemical & Engineering News of October 29.

Contrasting the advice and "subtle" pressures applied to editors in private briefings with the volume of information released officially at Geneva, C & EN concludes that "there is no over-all policy -- only expediency." C & EN concedes that a scientific article conveys a certain amount of information to potential enemies -- "if it did not, it would not be worth publishing." The progress of basic science and, in turn, technology, rests on unrestricted communication and "our country stands to lose more than it can possibly gain by following the 'suggestions' made by government agencies here in Washington."

EXPORT REVIEW In a letter to Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks on October 31, FAS Chairman Donald J. Hughes suggested administrative action to eliminate objectionable features of existing export regulations, administered by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce (see NL 55-5, 55-7). Under these regulations general scientific information of an unclassified nature, and educational and technical data not related to design and production facilities for industrial processes, must be labelled "GTDS (General Technical Data Scientific) - Export License Not Required," when sent outside the US. Hughes pointed out that the propaganda effect of this requirement was "spectacularly bad," and noted that though there seems to be no intention to enforce it uniformly, [the regulation makes] unwitting criminals out of most scientists."

The Federation has learned that the Department of Commerce is now reviewing the need for continuing the labelling requirement of export of technical data.

FOREIGN MINISTERS FAIL -- HOPES LIVE ON

The lack of agreement at the recently concluded Big Four Foreign Ministers Conference at Geneva has not deterred government leaders from once again expressing hope of eventual peaceful resolution of East-West conflicts. Via Secretary of State Dulles' report to the nation on November 18, President Eisenhower pledged "no obstacle to progress will ever deter this government and our people from the great effort to establish a just and durable peace." Dulles reported "the cold war in the sense of peaceful competition will inevitably go on. ... We can, however, hope that this competition will not entail all the same hostility and animosity which so defiled the relations between us in the past."

RELIANCE ON H-BOMB FRIGHT

The failure of the conference to specifically advance the quest for peace has, however, been followed by reminders of the alternative to peace -- namely, the catastrophe of nuclear warfare. On Nov. 17, AEC Commissioner Murray, speaking at Fordham Law School, urged a "meeting at the atomic summit" in the mid-Pacific where the world leaders would be given a first-hand demonstration of the might of a super bomb. Murray said: "These are the men who in the first instance must come to a full personal understanding of the meaning of nuclear energy. ... All of them would talk more realistically and more fruitfully after their experience of witnessing a large thermonuclear explosion." Murray also criticized atomic secrecy, claiming that "we have been too slow in realizing that the broad interests of national security also demand broad public information."

The remaining four AE commissioners rejected Murray's proposal. However, Air Force Secretary Quarles, among others, saw "a lot of merit" in the proposal (*Washington Post*, Nov. 19). In an address before the National Press Club Nov. 18, Quarles said the world "may have already arrived at a state of deadlock in which atomic weapons themselves impose a peace upon mankind."

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET INCREASED

Sixty nations made commitments on Oct. 26 to support the UN special technical assistance fund for 1955. Twenty-six, including the US, pledged amounts which represented increases over previous contributions. The US contribution of \$15.5 million (subject to the condition that this amount shall represent not over 50% of the total), suggests that at least \$31 million will be available to the agency next year. This compares favorably to the budget of \$19 million four years ago and \$28 million for 1955.

The total extent of this UN program, which may well be expected to increase in importance, is small compared to programs which several countries have carried out individually. In particular, the US has spent a total of \$11,566 million on economic and technical assistance during fiscal years 1950-56, in addition to \$24,170 million in military assistance during the same period. The non-military programs of the US have been increased this past year, while direct military aid has been reduced.

INCREASING SOVIET ACTIVITY

Soviet technical assistance to other countries has in the past been small compared to that of the US, but during recent months the USSR has been carrying out negotiations with several nations, particularly in the Near East, involving greatly expanded assistance. In addition to the offer to help the Egyptians build a dam on the Nile, industrial and agricultural equipment has been offered to all Arab and Asian countries. Russia has purchased surplus rice from India and offered favorable trade terms to Burma, Indonesia, Egypt, and Syria involving surplus rice, cotton, tin and rubber.

All of this has been pointed out by some individuals within the Administration and by many private citizens and newspapers as indicative of a shift of emphasis in the "cold war" which will call for greater stress on economic measures. Many have urged a new and expanded program of the Marshall Plan type to counter the recent Soviet moves, on the assumption that it would be dangerous to the free world to allow the Soviets to expand their technical assistance without a corresponding increase on our part.

COURTS RULE ON LOYALTY-SECURITY

A 2-1 decision in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (San Francisco) recently laid the groundwork for another possible review by the Supreme Court of the right of an accused to face his accusers in loyalty-security proceedings. This important step resulted from a ruling which challenged the Coast Guard's Port Security Regulations under which seamen require loyalty certification to serve aboard American merchant vessels. In handing down the majority decision, Judge Pope questioned whether the "objective of perpetuating a doubtful system of secret informers" could justify the abandonment of "the ancient standards of due process." The arguments presented in the case were essentially the same as those given in the Peters case in which, however, the Supreme Court avoided the question of "face-your-accuser" by reaching a decision on technical grounds.

A recent Supreme Court action affecting constitutional rights supported the contention of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court that "the possible harm which might result in suppressing freedoms of the First Amendment outweigh any threatened evil posed by the occupation by members of subversive organizations of units in Federally aided housing projects." By refusing to review the decision of the State Supreme Court, the US Supreme Court, in effect, acknowledged that the government program to oust members of groups on the Attorney General's list from federally aided housing programs was unconstitutional.

OTHER CASES DEVELOP

In a case before the Boston Federal District Court, Leon J. Kamin, a former research assistant at Harvard under indictment for contempt of Congress, succeeded in having 4 of 6 counts held against him dropped by Judge Bailey Aldrich. Kamin's citation resulted from a 1-man investigation held by Sen. McCarthy who, according to Aldrich, "had no right to engage in a general 'fishing expedition.'" Also in the Boston Federal Court, Judge J. W. Morris recently found Lawrence Arguimbau guilty of 12 charges of contempt of Congress and handed him a jail sentence of 1 year. A former teacher of electrical communications at M.I.T., Arguimbau did not take refuge under the Fifth Amendment and was cited for contempt when he refused to name former fellow members of the Communist Party.

The Civil Service Commission and the Army also figure in recent loyalty-security cases. In a reversal of prior charges, Fred Karpoff, Jr. was cleared of risk charges by the CSC in a "guilt-by-kinship" case, after the Commission's initial ruling had been challenged by former Senator Cain and Sen. McNamara (D, Mich.). In another "guilt-by-kinship" case, Army Secretary Brucker reversed an Army decision and granted Lt. W. K. Novak an honorable discharge. The charges against both Novak and Karpoff all related essentially to the activities of parents reputed to be members of a subversive organization.

SECURITY STUDIES

A 12-man commission to investigate the Federal security program was recently appointed as a result of the joint Congressional resolution sponsored by Senators Humphrey (D, Minn.) and Stennis (D, Miss.), and passed last June. Members named to the Commission:

By President Eisenhower -- James P. McGranery, US Attorney General under Truman; Franklin D. Murphy, chancellor, U. of Kan.; L. S. Rothschild, Undersecretary of Commerce; Carter Lane Burgess, Asst. Defense Secretary. By Mr. Nixon -- Sen. Stennis; Sen. Norris Cotton (R, N.H.); Lloyd Wright of Los Angeles, past pres. of the Amer. Bar Assoc.; Dr. Susan Riley, Nashville, prof. of education at George Peabody College. By Speaker Rayburn -- Rep. Walter (D, Pa.); Rep. William McCullough (R, Ohio); Attorney James L. Noel, Jr. of Houston; and former Governor E. L. Mechem of New Mexico.

Another investigation recently initiated concerns a review by the Army of its entire machinery for handling military security risk cases in order to eliminate defects and abuses in the system. According to Army Secretary Brucker, the Judge Advocate General's office will be "held accountable" for assuring that all "derogatory" information against an accused person is supported by proper documentation.

The Justice Dept. announced Nov. 15 that Attorney General Brownell will recommend amending the law underlying the

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

US-UNESCO COMMISSION MEETS

A conference to study and appraise "UNESCO's work to advance the educational, scientific, and cultural relations among the peoples of the world" was convened in Cincinnati Nov. 3, by the US National Commission for UNESCO. This was the 5th such conference, called to "assist the National Commission in its work as an agency of liaison and in its advisory capacity to the Government." Two FAS representatives attended the meeting and furnished the material for this report.

The role that science can play in furthering UNESCO's program was stressed by Lloyd V. Berkner in his speech on "Thresholds of Economic and Cultural Development." His main thesis was that modern science is capable of conferring great knowledge and power. This should be directed so that every human being obtains the ultimate promise of his capabilities. For this to come about, certain critical levels or thresholds of activity in socio-economic fields must be reached for a reaction to occur. In considering critical levels of science and technology in underdeveloped areas, he pointed out that the threshold might be obtained by external factors including science education. Specifically, he noted that (1) text books are lacking; (2) training of individuals is inadequate for "reaction;" (3) scholarships are inadequate to provide necessary training; and (4) there is little or no opportunity for employment of trained individuals after they have received their training.

UNESCO Director General Luther Evans outlined four major programs to be stressed by UNESCO during the next two years: (1) a program, in conjunction with Latin American nations, to get all children of those countries into schools, (2) promotion of research on the arid lands problem, from Turkey to Ceylon, (3) increasing understanding between East and West, and (4) programs to develop and provide materials for the newly literate so that their new literacy may find expression.

COURTS RULE ON LOYALTY-SECURITY (Cont. from p. 2).

Federal security program so that an employee will not be suspended without pay before being granted a security hearing. The practice of suspending an employee without pay has been considered one of the most glaring faults of the program by former Senator Cain, who has pointed out that a majority of the employees heard on security risk charges have later been restored to duty.

SENATE HEARINGS The Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, headed by Sen. Hennings (D, Mo.), initiated hearings Nov. 14 to examine effects on constitutional rights of passport regulations and the loyalty-security program. First days of the hearings were devoted to an inquiry into possible violations of the rights of free speech, press, and assembly. In addition to hearing charges on abuses of rights involved in the present military security program, the Subcommittee heard testimony from specialists on civil rights on the question of whether, and to what degree, constitutional freedoms can be limited in times of national stress. In discussing the "clear and present danger" doctrine enunciated by Justice Holmes in 1919, Harvard University professor Zechariah Chafee noted that, while "some sacrificing of discussion is occasionally required," it is most important that the dangers to freedom are carefully weighed when the balance is struck in favor of security. The consensus among the witnesses, according to Murrey Marder (*Washington Post*) was that "the great weight should be on the side of freedom."

The Subcommittee was also told of the indiscriminate and careless use of various "subversive lists" by a number of state, local and private groups, for example in screening applicants for jobs or licenses. Chairman Hennings said the Subcommittee is trying to show how use of these lists, of which the Attorney General's list is the best known, has spread into the nation's daily life -- often with little regard for how they were compiled, or for what purpose. In the course of testimony, it was brought out, for example, that Delaware has a Communist Registry Law closely tied to the Attorney General's list; "Communist-front organizations" are defined in it as "any organization listed as such by the Attorney General of the U.S." Ironically, it developed that the State of Delaware has been using the wrong list, a much more inclusive list prepared by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

PROGRESS ON ATOMS-FOR-PEACE

On October 27, the Political and Security Committee of the UN General Assembly endorsed by a vote of 53-0 the resolution of Oct. 6 put forth jointly by the US and Britain, suggesting establishment of an international agency to implement the peaceful aspects of atomic energy. Two USSR amendments, to allow the participation of non-UN members and to set up the agency in the framework of the UN Security Council (where veto powers would be operative), were not included in the final draft. The Soviets were also unsuccessful in attempting to embroil the atoms-for-peace plan in the general debate on disarmament. The original draft was, however, modified by the addition of India, Brazil, the USSR and Czechoslovakia to the list of sponsoring nations involved in the negotiation of the statute.

The General Assembly resolution made several recommendations, including the establishment of an international periodical devoted to the peaceful uses of atomic energy. It also favored further international conferences under the auspices of the UN -- similar to the one held in Geneva last August.

The US, meanwhile, took the positive step of offering, through the US International Cooperation Administration, one and perhaps two nuclear reactors to the proposed nuclear research and training center planned in Asia. This center is part of the Colombo plan introduced by the British in an effort to help raise the living standard in East and South Asia.

U. N. RADIATION STUDY INITIATED

The Political Committee of the UN General Assembly voted unanimously on November 7 to establish an international scientific group to study the effects of atomic radiation on man's health and environment and to collect and disseminate data on present and possible future levels of such radiation. The 59-0 vote followed a period of debate in which the powerful Latin-American bloc successfully introduced an amendment to expand the scientific committee from 11 to 15 members, despite protests by British and US delegates that such changes might make the group "unwieldy."

Each of the member states -- Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the US, and the USSR -- will appoint one scientist to be its representative on the Committee. The group is requested to "receive and assemble . . . information . . . on observed levels of ionizing radiation and radioactivity in the environment" and on the "effects of ionizing radiation on man and his environment;" to recommend uniform standards for analyzing the information; to "make yearly progress reports;" and to develop, by July 1, 1958, a summary and evaluation of the information received together with "indications of research projects which might require further study."

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The FAS is a national organization of scientists and engineers concerned with the impact of science on national and world affairs. The Newsletter is edited by members of the FAS Washington Chapter.

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AUTOMATION HEARINGS

Hearings on the future of automation, recently completed before the House-Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on the Economic Report, seem to permit no clear-cut conclusion about the expected impact of automation on the American way of life.

Predictions tended to revolve around the length of the work week, the possibilities of unemployment, and the effects of automation on productivity. Regarding the length of the work week, W. P. Kennedy, president of the Independent Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, asserted that rail workers have lost 200,000 full-time jobs since 1947 and that increasing automation in the rail industry may require that the work week be shortened to prevent unemployment. CIO president Reuther predicted a 4-day work week by 1965. However, GE president Cordiner said that in the next 10 years industry must produce 40% more goods and services with only 14% more manpower and that "the American public will choose more goods in preference to a shorter work week." Cordiner's argument was supported by Sylvania Electric Products president Mitchell.

CONFLICTING OPINIONS Opinions also differ on predictions about the effects of automation on jobs. C. Brunetti, General Mills R & D director, expects 15 million new jobs from automation in the next 10 years. He pointed out that, in those areas now affected by automation, employment has increased, as in the chemical and allied products industries where employment doubled from 1938 to '53. But O. Pragan, Research and Educ. director for the AF of L's Internat'l Chemical Workers Union, put a somewhat different light on this example by asserting that from 1947-54, a 53% increase in chemical production was accompanied by only a 1.3% increase in production workers. The number of non-production workers, however, increased by nearly 50%. J. A. Beirne, president of the Communications Workers of America, predicted a loss of 200,000 jobs in the telephone industry by 1965. M. G. Munce, vice chairman of the NAM Industrial Problems Committee, took an opposite view pointing out that, since 1920, employment in the operating telephone companies has increased 130%.

It appeared that some of the above predictions were based upon different assumptions regarding the rate at which productivity would continue to increase. M. A. Hollengreen, president of two machine tool companies, said there must be a constant increase in output per man hour if the standard of living is to continue upward, and that automation is the only means for accomplishing this. During the same hearings, however, Labor Secretary Mitchell contradicted several labor spokesmen, saying that by four different measures it had been demonstrated that the annual pre-war increase in productivity rate was about the same as the rate of increase since the war -- in spite of the fact that automation has played a steadily increasing part in the economy.

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IGY -- INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

The most spectacular development to date in plans for the International Geophysical Year (IGY), 1957-58, was the White House announcement July 29 that the US intends to launch an earth satellite during the IGY. On Nov. 10, Joseph Kaplan, Chairman of the US National Committee for the IGY, announced that the USNC-IGY Technical Panel on the Earth Satellite Program would be composed of himself, R. W. Porter (chairman), Hugh Odishaw, Homer E. Newell, Jr., W. H. Pickering, A. F. Spilhouse, L. Spitzer, Jr., J. A. VanAllen, and F. L. Whipple. It was previously announced (Oct. 6) that the Navy had been designated to direct the technical aspects of the military's part in this program. John P. Hagen of Naval Research Lab. has been named director of this project, "Vanguard." At the same time, it was revealed that contracts for the rocket launcher had been awarded to the Glenn L. Martin Company and for the rocket motor to General Electric.

EXPERIMENTS PLANNED In a speech before the American Rocket Society on Nov. 16, Kaplan outlined the types of experiments expected to be undertaken from the satellite. These were:

- "1. Determination of outer atmosphere densities by observation of the air drag effect upon the satellite's orbit.
- "2. Obtaining of more accurate measures of the earth's equatorial radius and oblateness, of intercontinental distances, and of other geodetic data than are presently available.
- "3. Long term observations of solar ultraviolet radiation.
- "4. Studies of intensities and fluctuations in intensity of the cosmic and other particle radiation impinging upon the atmosphere.
- "5. Determination of the density of hydrogen atoms and ions in interplanetary space.
- "6. Observations of the Störmer current ring.
- "7. If possible, determination of the distribution of mass in the earth's crust along the orbital track."

A similar outline for the IGY rocket program included studies of atmospheric structure and composition, radiation, auroral particles, low energy cosmic rays, and ionospheric and geomagnetic measurements.

Another aspect of IGY plans is concerned with Antarctica. For the first time it is expected that extensive scientific measurements will be made from the southernmost portion of the globe. At the beginning of November, three icebreakers set out from the US for Antarctica where it is expected that preparations will be made for the arrival of about 100 US scientists next year. Adm. Richard E. Byrd has been named officer in charge of "US Antarctic Programs." These programs, aside from those concerned with IGY, are expected to be of a long-term, perhaps permanent, nature.

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