RETURN TO FAS

SPECIAL ISSUE

F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS 1749 L Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.
October 10, 1951 51 - 7

SCIENTISTS! DO WE STILL NEED FAS?

THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS IS NOW SIX YEARS OLD. FROM ITS BEGINNINGS AS THE "LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED MEN" TO ITS PRESENT status as a mature organization of citizen-scientists, FAS has been -- and continues to be -- the voice of scientists conscious of their social responsibilities. In the UN, in the halls of Congress, in the press, FAS views are known and respected. By its influence on the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, on the U.S. proposals for international control of atomic energy, on government security and classification procedures, on mobilization of scientific manpower, on the National Science Foundation, FAS has put its imprint on history. Fused into being by the social heat of nuclear fission, FAS interests have grown and ramified with the changing times. For six years it has been the largest and most effective U.S. organization devoted exclusively to the problems raised by the interaction of science and society -- and the only one which maintains its own Washington listening and action center.

Though FAS is number one in its field, it is, nevertheless, neither large nor financially strong. Always bigger in influence than numbers, FAS membership has slowly dwindled in the last two years, as chapters dissolved, and former members quietly dropped from the rolls. Born at the high (or Hiroshima) point of scientists' social consciousness, the decline of FAS membership can be measured almost quantitatively by counting the resigned sighs of scientists turning away from the social arena. Today, for the first time, FAS members are reckoned in fewer than four figures, and the continued existence of the Washington Office -- famed center of the "Scientists' Lobby" -- is threatened by an acute crisis of the budget.

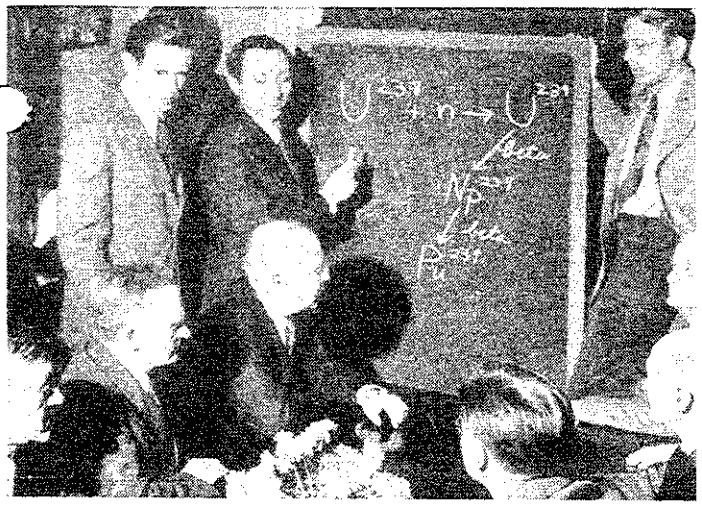
Has FAS outlived its usefulness? We think not. Not when Congress is befuddled by claims and counter-claims of fantastic new weapons -- atomic and otherwise. Not when the House of Representatives can still put a pitiful $300,000 per annum price tag on the National Science Foundation. Not when science's budget sheet of utilization is 100 to 1 on the side of destruction.

Has FAS lost its effectiveness? Not when its advice and opinion still are repeatedly sought by members of Congress and other officials. Not when the press is demonstrably still ready and eager to feature FAS statements and comments.

Is FAS without human resources? Not when its hard core of devoted members holds sturdily at a renewal rate of over 70%. Not when it can still mobilize scores of volunteers all over the country to do yeoman work in every crisis.

What does FAS need, if it is to continue its long fight to guarantee the fullest use of science for the benefit of mankind? The answer is simple. It needs YOU -- you who were once a member but have dropped out because you lost contact, or because you took it for granted that FAS could get along without you. YOU who never joined, though you felt that FAS was on the right track and had your moral support. YOU who have come of age during the postwar disillusionment and are wondering how you can in some small way help a world stumbling toward destruction. YOU who see the drift but feel the helplessness of the individual in the face of colossal confusion.

FAS isn't a formula; it's people. It is a mechanism for group thinking, planning, and action -- quick and effective action -- by scientists. Its issues grow out of the times. Its only fixed idea is that the times require social action by scientists on all matters on which they have special competence -- sober action, determined, persistent. Only organized action -- informed, considered, democratically decided -- can meet the challenge. FAS has done the job, and can continue to do it. But organized social action costs money -- and there is a minimum critical amount below which it becomes impossible. The only reliable, steady source of income is members. FAS needs more members. It needs them now.



THE CONGRESS SAID THEN--

"...The...work [of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy] in self-education for [their] important job could never have succeeded without the wholehearted cooperation of the scientists. These men who made the atom bomb, fortunately, were devoted to democracy. Many of their leaders were men who had come here fleeing from persecution and intolerance abroad. But by far the vast majority of the rank and file were men who had learned their first science in the public, private and parochial schools of this country. And with their science, they had learned good citizenship..."

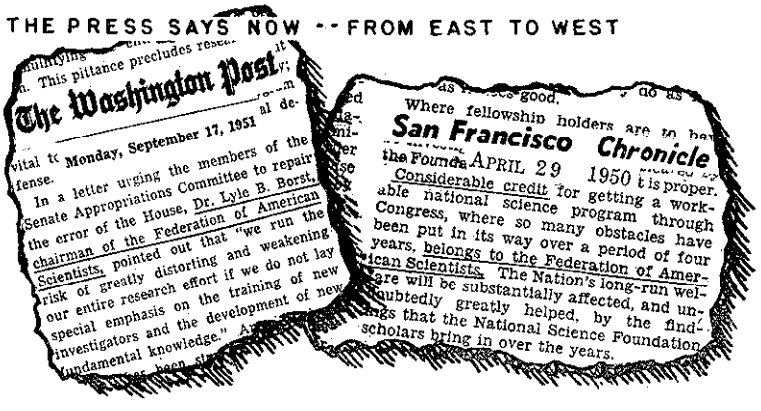
-- Senator Brien McMahon, AIR AFFAIRS, March 1947

THE PRESS SAID THEN--

"...The U.S. atomic scientists, so deeply fearful of their own discovery that reporters dubbed them 'The League of Frightened Men,' began an intensive campaign to awe Congress into recognizing its tremendous responsibilities. They formed the Federation of Atomic Scientists, opened an ironically humble Washington office, adopted a program and began urging it on both legislators and public.....Soon after F.A.S. began its crusade, a Big Three conference was called in Moscow, partly because of F.A.S. efforts..."

-- LIFE Magazine, December 31, 1945

THE PRESS SAYS NOW -- FROM EAST TO WEST



The Washington Post

Monday, September 17, 1951

In a letter urging the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to repair the error of the House, Dr. Lyle B. Borst, chairman of the Federation of American Scientists, pointed out that "we run the risk of greatly distorting and weakening our entire research effort if we do not lay special emphasis on the training of new investigators and the development of new fundamental knowledge."

San Francisco Chronicle

APRIL 29 1950

Considerable credit for getting a workable national science program through Congress, where so many obstacles have been put in its way over a period of four years, belongs to the Federation of American Scientists. The Nation's long-run welfare will be substantially affected, and undoubtedly greatly helped, by the findings that the National Science Foundation scholars bring in over the years.

IS THERE A JOB FOR A SCIENTISTS' ORGANIZATION?

Suspicious Character

Courtesy of the Washington Post

Is Science as threatened and defenseless as our friend in the chair ? Are we really helpless in the face of the drum roll of bigotry and destruction?

* * * *

This much is clear -- Science is on the spot.

* * * *

Science has cut a wide swath in our national life and vastly altered (for better or worse) the world outlook. In consequence, the shy, retiring days of science are over. Science is too big and too important to escape public scrutiny and -- like it or not -- some degree of public control.

* * * *

Who will decide how the fruits of science are to be used? Who will say what society can legitimately and safely demand of science, what science can ask of society? Who will say what you, the scientist, owes -- and what you are owed?

These are issues of broad public policy. Their solution in a democratic nation requires the participation of everyone. Above all, it requires the fullest contribution of the best informed and most directly concerned -- you, the scientist.

* * * *

Unwise public decisions on science policy will do harm to the general welfare -- and particularly to the hopes and plans of individual scientists. Overzealous militarization, over-stringent security, inadequate support of basic research and scientific training threaten you in your laboratory, hence threaten science, and our national strength.

* * * *

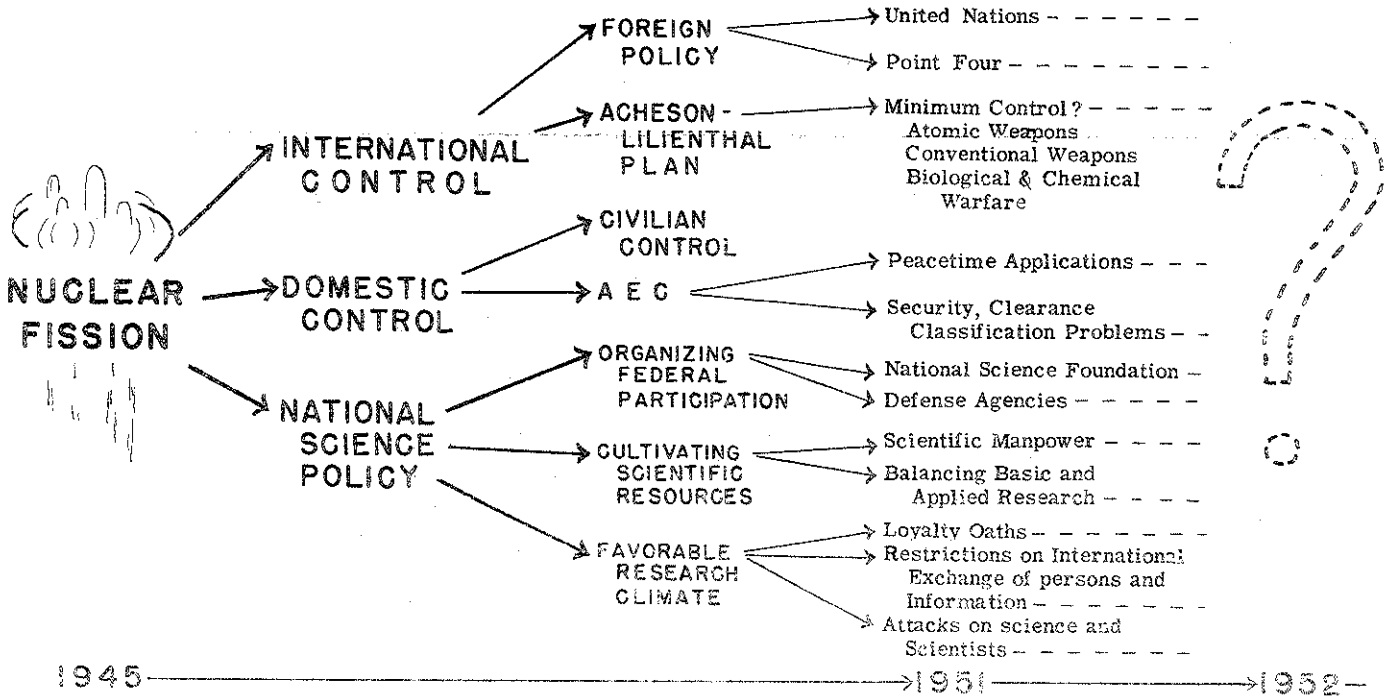
You have views on these matters -- important, informed views. They must be registered effectively, intelligently, where they count.

* * * *

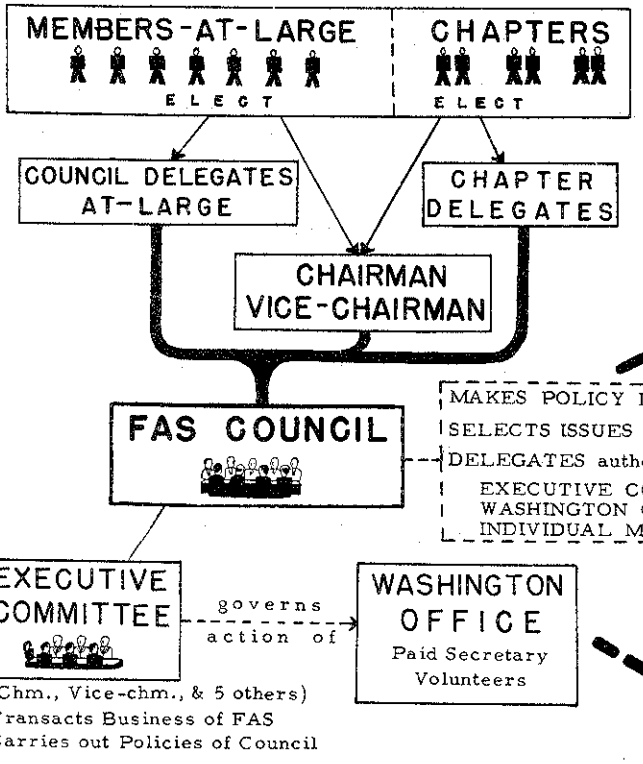
You cannot do it alone. Life is too short, research too demanding, the machinery of social action too complex. Organization is needed -- organization of, by, and for scientists. This was one lesson of Hiroshima. FAS is the result.

FAS interests have grown and ramified to meet changing needs. FAS organization is tailored for democratic participation. FAS has experience, reputation, tradition. FAS has a job. You should be part of it.

--RAMIFYING FAS INTERESTS--



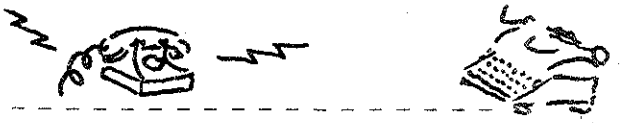
--- THE FEDERATION IN ACTION ---



SAMPLE

ON THE AGENDA -- FAS Council Meeting (Chicago, October 27, 1951)

1. Restrictions on freedom of science --
   Limitations on exchange of scientists
   Secrecy and Security
   Continuance of FAS Loyalty Committee's work
2. Report on FAS International Conference of Scientists, Chicago, September 23, 1951
3. Civil Defense -- report on national effort
4. Proposal for restitution to Japanese Science for destruction of cyclotrons in 1946
5. Application for FAS chapter status from Stanford area members-at-large
6. Future financing of the FAS



ONE PHASE of the Office work is to answer telephone and mail inquiries concerning:

1. Progress of legislation (e.g. NSF bill, appropriations, AEC hearings) from organizations, press, individuals.
2. Progress of atomic control developments, peacetime uses of atomic energy, importance attached to development of weapons of mass warfare (e.g. A-bomb, H-bomb, Biological Warfare).....Possible sources of information: films, bibliographies, pamphlets.
3. Position of American scientists on civil liberties of scientists, disarmament and atomic control, secrecy and security matters, research support and emphasis.
4. Advice and assistance with individual loyalty and security problems.
5. Relations with foreign science -- exchange of publications, observing international meetings of scientists, etc.
6. Routine organizational details: Dues, up-to-date membership lists, chapter activities, organizing volunteer help.
7. FAS Activities carried on out of Washington: Liaison with FAS committees: membership, loyalty problems, public education, treasurer's office, elections.

HOW ISSUES ARISE

BEFORE THEY HAPPEN -- FAS Washington Office keeps in touch with Congressional committee staffs, federal agencies, newspaper and magazine reporters, other interested organizations. These sources provide data that enables FAS to interpret events and forecast developments of special concern to scientists.

FOR EXAMPLE, this month, FAS knew that the Senate Committee report on NSF appropriations was imminent. FAS was in daily touch with "the hill" -- getting impressions on each Senator's stand, on the make-up of the Conference Committee, on the timing of the Bill. With this background, FAS is now ready to go into action informing YOU the moment a report is issued.

HOW FAS TAKES ACTION

A big job of the FAS Washington Office is to spread pertinent information quickly. As it is physically impossible to inform the whole membership promptly on any but the most important developments, very fast alerts go to FAS officers, Council members, chapters, to key people in other areas, and to other interested organizations.

FOR EXAMPLE, last year, two hours after an amendment to the NSF bill was passed, requiring security clearance for all fellows and employees, FAS had phoned N.Y., Chicago, Cambridge, and sent $100 worth of telegrams elsewhere in the country.

This and subsequent mailings helped turn the tide. Several Congressmen later commented on both the quantity and quality of their mail on this issue. The amendment was defeated.

More commonly, FAS sends alerts by mimeogram to key people telling what has happened, what the implications are, and what action by individuals or groups might be effective. Such a mimeogram went out this month regarding the NSF appropriation cut, giving the names of Congressmen to whom communications should be sent.

PERSONAL CONTACTS -- FAS maintains friendly and continuous contacts with Congress, newspapers, other scientists, interested organizations, individuals who influence national policy.

CONFERENCES -- to stimulate other civic and scientific

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

THIS FAS NEWSLETTER is a special issue to launch a nationwide membership campaign. It is typical in being planned, written, illustrated, assembled, edited, and mailed by volunteers in the Washington Office -- with the help of a single paid employee. It is unusual in its emphasis on FAS as an organization, rather than on issues and events requiring FAS action. Effective action presupposes availability of information -- current and complete. Making information available is the usual job of the FAS Newsletter -- the job it has been doing for nearly three years.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION ☐ or SUBSCRIPTION ☐

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Highest Degree Received	Institution	Major Field

Present Position _____

Annual Dues for Members-at-Large:
Regular Member* $5 & $3; Supporting $10; Patron $25
*Regular members with more than $2500 annual income pay $5.
Annual Newsletter subscription for non-members is $2.

The Federation in Action (Continued from Page 3).
organizations on issues requiring cooperation.

PRESS CONTACTS -- making known to the public FAS policy.

LETTERS and TELEGRAMS -- to Congress, White House, government officials, newspaper editors. Texts are drafted by the Washington Office -- checked with FAS officers before use. Initiative is taken by the Washington volunteer staff in close touch with developments.

HOW FAS INFORMS YOU

FAS NEWSLETTER -- reports information of special interest to scientists, presenting it concisely, discussing the implications. Copies go to all members, representatives of the press, and other organizations. Subscribers include federal agencies and university libraries. (A regular issue costs FAS about $60.00.)

MEMBERS' BULLETINS -- mimeographed reports on important issues are sent to all members. Significant documents, such as Niels Bohr's open letter, are also distributed.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS FAS ?

Without FAS -- Control of atomic energy in the U.S. might today be in military hands. FAS is generally credited with a major role in defeating the May-Johnson Bill and sparking passage of the McMahon Act in the exciting post-World War II months.

Without FAS -- Scientists would have harsher security regulations. FAS succeeded in improving security and loyalty procedures. It helped defeat the amendment requiring FBI investigation of all NSF fellows and employees.

Without FAS -- The National Science Foundation might never have become an actuality. FAS testified at Congressional hearings on NSF legislation and alerted the public to weaknesses in the legislation during the four years it was under Congressional consideration.

Without FAS -- U.S. might not have taken a strong position favoring International Control of Atomic Energy. FAS provided information to the UN Atomic Energy Commission, helped to formulate a scientific basis for U.S. proposals to the UN.

MORE OFTEN, FAS functions chiefly as a catalyst -- final action coming from the combined efforts of citizen's groups, newspapers, important individuals, and the general public.

* * * *

FAS International Conference. The Atomic Scientists of Chicago, on September 23, sponsored an informal meeting on international problems involving foreign and American scientists attending the International Nuclear Physics Conference of the University of Chicago. Most European countries were represented among the foreign participants. Discussion took the form of a round table on what scientists can do in the light of current world tension. A few of the highlights which indicate the scope and direction of the deliberations were the following:

Suggested withdrawal of the Baruch proposal by the U.S. was regarded by the visitors as of little significance.

The opinion was voiced that scientists could not make a simple demand for abstinence from use of the atomic weapons -- regarded as the basis for the present military balance. Continued education on the consequences of the military use of the Bomb was advocated. American representatives pointed out that such education is a double-edged sword which is as likely to induce increased hysteria and accelerated armaments production as it is to induce a responsible search for non-military alternatives.

Extensively discussed was the proposal by the Atomic Scientists of Chicago for the U.S. to establish a new Lilienthal-type board to study possible alternatives under present circumstances. It was doubted that such a group could work effectively under public scrutiny. Question was raised whether a State Department-appointed board would be capable of a fresh approach to the problem.

Despite these reservations, it was felt that such a study was never too late and was perhaps the best feasible program in the light of the present armament race.

SENATE UPS THE ANTE ON NSF — —

ON OCTOBER 8, the Senate passed the Supplementary Appropriations bill for 1952, allotting $6.3 millions to the National Science Foundation for the current fiscal year (July 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952). In so doing, it followed the recommendation of its Appropriations Committee and rejected a floor effort by Senator Smith of New Jersey to increase the amount to ten millions. Though this is 6 million dollars more than the House authorized, the 6.3 figure is less than half of the 14 millions originally requested by the President. Moreover, the bill must yet go to conference with the House where compromise may further reduce the allotment.

In a memorandum read into the Record by Sen. Smith, Director Waterman pointed out that the curtailed budget would mean reduction of the graduate fellowship program by 46% -- from 2040 to 1150 fellows. A larger cut in support to basic research (originally budgeted at approximately $8 million) was foreseen, since this item is given lower priority than scientific training in the existing circumstances.

At the moment of writing, neither the time of meeting of the conference committee nor its members representing the House have been announced. The recommendation of the conference committee will almost certainly be decisive, and can lie anywhere between the House-approved $300,000 and the Senate-approved $6.3 million. Friends of NSF in the House -- like Representatives Percy Priest of Tennessee and John Heselton of Massachusetts -- can be expected to do their part to influence House conferees to accept the Senate figure. They will be helped by communications to Rep. Albert Thomas (Tex.), Chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on Independent Offices, urging that he similarly use his influence to salvage what is left of the NSF program for the coming year.

Federation of American Scientists
1749 L Street, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

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