

F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
Jules Halpern, Chairman

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VISAS, SCIENCE, and the CAMPAIGN

BULLETIN CENTERS FIRE ON VISA POLICIES

With election just around the corner, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, in a special October issue, centered its fire on US visa policies and their administration by the State Department. Never was there a more bipartisan snarl than this. Chief difficulties have arisen out of Democratic administration of two Acts sponsored by a powerful Democratic Senator, and passed by Republican majorities over the vetoes of a Democratic President. Net result -- no gain for either party, much loss to science and the American people.

WIDE INTEREST AROUSED The Bulletin issue repeats, buttresses, and documents in detail the case made by the report of the FAS Visa Committee last May.

The impressive survey of damage being done to US interests both home and abroad by restrictive visa practices received wide press coverage and elicited much comment. The N. Y. Times referred to "Mr. McCarran's monstrosity" as "a foolish law," and noted that "the answer to slavery is freedom -- freedom to think, to talk, to move about." It suggested that the situation high-lighted by the Bulletin "ought to be looked into and corrected."

Under the head, "Visa Nightmare," the Washington Post noted that "Americans skilled in the physical sciences have again taught the country, as they did some years ago in the struggle to establish civilian control of atomic energy, a profound lesson in political science." Seeing the existing situation as arising from a "combination of legislative frenzy and administrative torpor," the Post endorsed the Bulletin statement that "the only reason for banning anyone on political grounds is because it can be realistically expected that he will attempt to perform acts of espionage or subversion. To ban others is simply nervousness and ignorance to a degree unworthy of grown-up, educated men or of a powerful Government with a great tradition to maintain."

STATE WILL INVESTIGATE The State Department announced that it has started a "thorough study" of criticisms of visa policies and that the 26 cases of visa difficulties described by the Bulletin were being "pulled from the files." The study, ordered by Deputy Undersecretary Carlisle, will be conducted by the Visa Division and will lead to a public reply to the criticisms. Such self-investigation may be salutary but it must be kept in mind that the 26 cases are only examples of a general problem which arises in large part out of "legislative frenzy," and public befuddlement on what constitutes legitimate "security" and what amounts to intellectual suicide.

WEISSKOPF REPORTS V. F. Weisskopf, a major contributor
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CANDIDATES NOT VOCAL ON SCIENCE

Though many major issues have been debated with full sound and fury in the current election campaign, there are others which are getting the silent treatment. Atomic control policies, NSF appropriations, visa procedures, support of basic research, and loyalty issues will certainly be determined by the character of the next Congress and Administration; yet few candidates have found it expedient to discuss or take stands on them publicly. Recognizing this, at least two FAS chapters have sought to put local and national candidates on record in areas of FAS interest. And the Executive Committee asked an informal group at Brookhaven to monitor and analyze statements of the major candidates to determine their views in these areas.

STEVENSON ON A-CONTROL So far as the major candidates are concerned there is only a single relevant speech to record. On Sept. 18 at Hartford, Conn., Gov. Stevenson paid tribute to the late Senator Brien McMahon and defined his own views on international control of atomic energy.

The Governor retold and approved the development of US policy on atomic control. But he emphasized the "danger in making the atomic bomb the center of our defense strategy." He said the bomb is one part of, and not a substitute for, a general system of defense and "cannot be our only answer to aggression." While calling for atomic security, he warned that "there can be no solution in an arms race. At the end of this road lies bankruptcy or world catastrophe."

Stevenson condemned as "folly" the notion that having atomic superiority permits us to be complacent about the stalemated negotiations for atomic control. "We must never close our minds or freeze our positions. We must strive constantly to break the deadlock in our atomic discussions." Nevertheless he adhered to the official State Department view that "we can never yield on the objective of securing a foolproof system of international inspection and control."

CHAPTER QUESTIONNAIRES Meanwhile, both the Stanford and Mohawk Chapters have submitted questionnaires to candidates. Mohawk recently asked its local Congressional candidates questions on the effects of widely publicized but inadequately investigated charges of disloyalty against prominent scientists; on the McCarran Act in relation to visa policies; on utilization and conservation of technical manpower; on support for basic research and NSF; on attitudes toward UNESCO. Mohawk regards its poll as useful in two ways: to provide information for its members, other scientists, and the public at large; and to focus the attention of future Congressmen on issues they might otherwise pass over as of little voter interest.

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New A-Weapons & Implications

The atomic weapons program continues to whirl on its mad course, with new products now popping like jack-in-the-box from all sides. This month the major contributors were the British, who produced their first atomic explosion on a small island off the coast of Australia, and the US Army, which revealed to public eye its first artillery piece capable of firing atomic warhead shells.

BRITISH Z-BOMB The British disclosure of their successful test was made on Oct. 3, and was accompanied by a host of rumors that their weapon represented an improvement over American ones. Only basis cited were reports that the cloud formation resulting from the explosion had a Z-shape, rather than the more familiar mushroom typical of American tests.

More certain than the nature of the bomb, however, is Prime Minister Churchill's intention to use Great Britain's singlehanded success for all it is worth in dealing with the US on atomic energy matters. Much British jubilation over this latest development can be directly traced to the feeling that they have not been fairly treated in the past and that their contributions to early atomic energy development have been inadequately recognized.

REVISED A-ACT ? It appears quite likely, therefore, that the next session of Congress will see a review of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, with particular attention to improving the exchange of information between ourselves and our allies.

Pressure in this direction is coming also from other sources. Both Gen. Collins and Gen. Bradley recently urged changes in the Act to permit military chiefs of the North Atlantic Treaty nations to be informed about capabilities and availability of American tactical A-weapons. Some of our top military personnel believe that these capabilities are currently being over-estimated by our European allies, with detrimental results in European rearmament. There will, therefore, be strong military backing for some revisions of the Act.

VERY BIG BERTHA The demonstration at Aberdeen Proving Ground of the Army's largest mobile gun, an 85-ton weapon which can fire a 280-mm. shell up to ranges of 20 miles, also forecasts great changes. This weapon is only one of a host of new developments which will broaden the possible means of using atomic energy as a tactical weapon. It is, however, the first weapon whose control will lie entirely with the Army, and it would also appear to have a higher assured accuracy -- and a greater reliability during periods of darkness and bad weather -- than do other potential vehicles of delivery. The adaptation of atomic energy warheads to an ancient and standard weapon of ground warfare cannot help but vitally effect military tactics and organization.

DANGEROUS IMPLICATIONS These latest developments provide significant indications of two important facts: (1) We are passing into a stage where heavy past investments are rapidly bringing forth a wide variety of practical results. Until the last year, most atomic energy news was concerned with proposed programs, expansion of production facilities, and tests of a fairly fundamental nature. The news of the present more and more concerns specific applications whose widespread use in the near future becomes increasingly practical. (2) At the same time, the increasing realization of tactical potentialities of atomic energy makes use of the atom in any future war more and more certain. As long as size and scarcity of A-weapons limited them to use on important strategic targets, some hope of a practicable "item ban" -- as with gas warfare in the last war -- remained. With atomic artillery and short-range guided missiles now available, however, nothing short of a general atomic control and disarmament program can have any effectiveness.

FEW BENEFITS In all the news concerning atomic energy,

BW Skirmishing

Although the BW front has quieted considerably, skirmishing continues at several points. The charge of US use of BW in Korea is still being repeated despite all denials. As noted in the last NL, a 6-man international scientific commission of investigation was reported by Peiping Radio on Sept. 15 to have concluded that "China and Korea have indeed been the objective of bacteriological warfare and the forces of the US are responsible for this." As we go to press, US officials in the UN have asked for investigation of the charges under auspices of the General Assembly. A similar request in the Security Council was vetoed by the Soviet Union last year.

NATURE OF COMMISSION A Christian Science Monitor dispatch from Hong Kong states that the commission reported by the Peiping Radio was formed following the Oslo meeting of the executive committee of the World Peace Council, an organization led by Communists. Its report, said to be based on a two-month on-the-spot investigation, runs to 300,000 words and has been published in English, French, Russian, and Chinese. It was released just prior to the Asian and Pacific peace conference held in Peiping late in September.

The State Department has rejected the report on the grounds that the commission "was selected by Communist leaders, they were conducted on their tour by Communist officials, and they have written their report under Communist aegis." The report could in no sense be regarded as "impartial," the Department said.

The *N. Y. Times*, on Sept. 16, reported that in addition to one Soviet member of the commission, one member had run on a Communist party ticket in Brazil, and two more had belonged to quasi-Communist organizations. A fifth, on whom the *Times* had no information, is said also to be officially active in Communist circles.

The UP, on Sept. 26, said that Joseph Needham, British member of the commission and a distinguished biochemist, admitted that the group had been able to find "no conclusive proof" of the charge and that no bacteriological investigation of any of the submitted evidence ever was made. Nevertheless, Needham opined that it would have been impossible for the Chinese to organize such a "gigantic trick" if all of the evidence was a hoax.

BLUE-PRINTS FOR BW ? Meanwhile, according to the *N. Y. Times* of Oct. 3, the Soviet Academy of Sciences found new proof of US aggressive BW intentions in the preparation by the American Geographical Society of a "World Atlas of Disease." The publication consists of maps outlining the distribution of certain diseases throughout the world. The journal of the Soviet Academy found the maps "related to the reconnaissance and preparation of materials which can be used during the planned attacks on other countries." It compared the Society's epidemic maps to Hitler's "geomedicine" studies.

BW DEFENSE US defenses against BW were discussed at a 3-day meeting at the US Public Health Service's Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia in mid-October. Dr. Justin M. Andrews, its director, said that the center would give attention to training of epidemiologists, development of air sampling techniques and equipment, and means of rapidly identifying pathogenic organisms. Dr. A. D. Langmuir, Chief of Epidemiology at the Center, urged the establishment of a concentrated BW defense effort. He said that, "If we are organized to treat those infected [in an attack], we can considerably reduce the fatality rate."

there are only a few items which may be classed as potentially beneficial to mankind. Perhaps the most important is the report of the meeting of an 11-nation European Council for Nuclear Research. These nations, none of whom feel they can afford a large atomic energy program on their own, are banding together to develop a jointly-operated atomic research center at Geneva, devoted to peaceful research.

Presidential Immigration Study

Twice over-ridden in his vetoes of the McCarran Acts, from which stem many difficulties including those with passports and visas, President Truman last month established a Presidential Commission on Immigration and Naturalization to study and report to the new Congress on the entire problem. The Commission is currently holding public hearings in various parts of the country "in order to get the views of people as to what our immigration policy, law and procedure ought to be."

F A S TESTIFIES FAS is seeing to it that the Commission is "read in" on the scientists' side of the story. In Boston on October 2, Charles Coryell, FAS Secretary, testified on difficulties of foreign scientists in obtaining visas and the offensive character of the "escape clause" permitting "technically inadmissible" persons to obtain special dispensation from the Attorney General. Coryell filed with the Commission copies of the FAS Visa Report as well as a requested written statement on scientists' visa problems. At the same session, MIT professor Chalmers, foreign students adviser, discussed the visa situation in relation to the 30,000 foreign students now in this country.

In Chicago, the Commission became thoroughly familiar with the contents of the special Bulletin issue on visas. The Commission secretary was reported to have complained jokingly that the schedule of the first afternoon of hearings was upset because members were all reading copies of the Bulletin still wet from the presses. Bulletin representatives appeared before the commission on the succeeding two days.

Several who testified before the commission expressed satisfaction with their cordial reception and the obvious earnestness and breadth of interest of the members. Chairman of the Commission is Philip Perlman, former Solicitor General, to whom further information and testimony may be addressed: President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization, Executive Offices, Washington 25, D.C.

COURTS ON LOYALTY

CALIFORNIA OATH The California State Supreme Court, on October 17, outlawed the special loyalty oath demanded of the University of California faculty by the Board of Regents. The Court held that the loyalty oath now required of all state employees by the Levering Act is adequate. The 18 faculty members who had been summarily dismissed when they refused to sign the Regents' oath were ordered reinstated provided they signed the oath required by the Levering Act. Dr. Edward C. Tolman, Professor of Psychology and spokesman for the non-signers, stated, "We believe the decision augurs well and happily for an end to the controversy which so sorely tried the university we love."

Less happy was the fact that the California Court simultaneously upheld the Levering oath and its application to the California faculty. The question must be asked whether an oath required by a state legislature any less impugns the dignity and freedom of the teaching profession than one imposed by university regents.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES The US Court of Appeals decided on Oct. 16 that membership in a group designated as subversive by the Attorney General is not, without other evidence of disloyalty, adequate basis for dismissal of a Federal employee under the President's Loyalty Program. The Court held that the dismissal of James Kutcher by the VA in 1948, for membership in the Socialist Workers' Party, was illegal in that the Administrator had not considered all relevant evidence in ruling on the question of Kutcher's loyalty.

As a result, the 1948 directive of the Loyalty Review Board, making dismissal mandatory for such membership, has been amended to conform to the Court decision. The Court emphasized that the functions of the loyalty boards are purely advisory to the head of the agency, who must ultimately make the decision. It did not question the legality of the Attorney General's list of subversive organizations.

FAS SUPPORT FOR UN ?

Few responses were received to the invitation in the last NL for comment on the question of greater FAS support for the UN and its activities. The matter will be discussed at the meeting of the Council tentatively scheduled for November in St. Louis. The invitation to express views remains open. Members have written:

"The UN is weak for lack of honest support, not because its machinery is intrinsically unworkable. Since it offers the only present hope of achieving any sort of international stability, I believe the FAS should support it much more directly and vigorously than at present. To be neutral, or to give such passive and ineffectual support as merely amending the Preamble to our Constitution, is to turn our backs on a chance to raise our still somewhat influential voice against the present upsurge of blind nationalism." - - J. B.

"As individuals and as scientists, we recognize the responsibility to promote 'the achievement of a stable world peace' (FAS Constitution). The UN is a positive step towards this achievement and therefore deserves our support. The FAS should determine those areas where, as scientists, we are especially qualified to serve (as, for example, atomic energy, WHO, Technical Assistance Program, FAO, UNESCO, etc.), and plan its support accordingly. In view of the current pessimism, the accomplishments of the UN to date should be emphasized as a part of the FAS support program. - - J. L. S.

UNESCO CONFERENCE

Keynote of the 11th meeting of the US National Commission for UNESCO, held in Washington early in October, was the need for public education on UNESCO - - and on UN aims and accomplishments. Asst. Secretary of State Howland Sargeant decried attacks on UNESCO in the Los Angeles school system and reported that over 80% of the American public believe the UN to be our best hope for lasting peace.

Candidates on Science (Cont. from Page 1).

The effectiveness of the technique is suggested by a cordial three-page response, to earlier unofficial queries, from Congressman B. W. Kearney (R., N.Y.). Besides answering all questions, largely favorably from the scientists' point of view, Kearney described in detail his efforts, as a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, to obtain a hearing on charges against E. U. Condon. The Congressman expressed his pleasure in answering the questionnaire and pledged cooperation "with you and your organization now and in the future." This kind of continuous exchange of views between scientists and legislators is essential if the prime FAS objective of wedding science and national policy is to be accomplished.

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 member-volunteers in the Washington area. Comments and contributions are invited.

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Activities of NSF --

POLICY "The National Science Foundation has been able to encourage a study of the sciences but it has not been able to balance the short-run needs of defense with long-run security requirements," the Washington Post said on Oct. 12. Dissatisfaction with the general drift of our national science effort recently was expressed also by George B. Kistiakowsky, Harvard Chem. Dept. chairman, who, speaking at a convention on science and human values at Mt. Holyoke College, charged that governmental research contracts are tending to convert graduate schools into "commercial development establishments." Kistiakowsky maintained that concentration on government and military projects by many colleges is menacing the future of scientific research in this country (N. Y. Times, October 3).

At an institute sponsored by the Minnesota World Affairs Center, Lloyd C. Berkner complained that significant ideas of scientists frequently have great difficulty gaining the attention of military authorities. Berkner, author of the State Department report on "Science and Foreign Relations," is now President of Associated Universities, Inc.

From these complaints, it seems clear that NSF will have to step up its pace if it is to fulfill its role in a hurrying world. It must be recalled that to it falls the broad statutory responsibility "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes" and, particularly, "to develop and encourage the pursuit of a national policy for the promotion of basic research and education in the sciences."

NEW GRANTS ANNOUNCED On Oct. 21, NSF announced its first grants, totalling \$728,250, under its new 1953 fiscal year budget. Fifty-two grants and two contracts were included, ranging from 6 months to 3 years and averaging \$6,300 per year. The grants show broad distribution both geographically and by subject. Included is \$65,000 to the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate NSF fellowship applications for 1953-54. Additional research proposals are now being considered.

SURVEYS Three fields of research and education are being surveyed by NSF. A contract was awarded some time ago to the American Physiological Society to survey the field of physiology. Recently, contracts were awarded to the National Academy of Sciences for a survey of the field of applied mathematics and to the American Psychological Association for a survey of the field of psychology. Dr. F. J. Weyl, head of the Mathematics Branch, Office of Naval Research, has been loaned to the Academy to head the mathematics survey

which is being carried out in cooperation with the Office of Naval Research, Office of Ordnance Research of the Army, and Office of Scientific Research of the Air Force. A committee of seven members appointed by the American Psychological Association is directing the psychology survey.

RESEARCH CONFERENCES NSF is sponsoring two research conferences; one on the abundance of the elements in the universe (at the Yerkes Observatory on Nov. 6-8 in cooperation with the University of Chicago); the other on high energy nuclear physics (at Rochester, N.Y. on Dec. 18-20 in collaboration with the University of Rochester). Prof. H. C. Urey and Prof. R. E. Marshak are chairmen of committees organizing the respective conferences.

FOREIGN MEETINGS A compilation has been made of 132 forthcoming international and foreign scientific and technical meetings to be held from October 1952 through December 1955. A limited number of copies of the list, which includes time, place, subjects, and name of organizing official, are available to scientists and scientific organizations upon request to NSF (2144 Calif. St., N.W., Washington 25, D.C.).

Visa Policies (Continued from Page 1).

to FAS visa activities, reports on a recent European trip during which he sought to determine current visa practices and reactions of European scientists. He found distinct improvements in both as compared with a year ago. The time elapsing between visa application and decision seems to have been reduced, though "in many cases the answer is still no." Questioning, both personal and on the application form, has improved -- with less emphasis on irrelevant activities of the past and on probing of present political views. "It seems that the procedures have gained considerably in dignity."

Weisskopf noted that in France where, together with the Scandinavian countries, improvement is most marked, scientists are inclined to credit American scientists with the change. Weisskopf, however, attributes it as much or more to initiative by State Department and Consular officials, stimulated and aided by the work of Embassy science attaches. These relatively new members of the US diplomatic apparatus were appointed in accord with recommendations of the well-known Berkner Report and operate under the guidance of Joseph B. Koepfli, scientific adviser to the State Department in Washington.

Despite improvements, Weisskopf regards the situation as "still unfavorable," mainly because of the strictures of the McCarran Acts. He believes that "the damage done to our international relations can be remedied only by thorough revision of the legislation."

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