

F. A. S. NEWSLETTER

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
Jules Halpern, Chairman

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New Passport Rules

The State Department responded this month to the outcry over passport procedures by establishing a new set of regulations which spell out explicitly the grounds for denial of passports and grant the right of appeal to dissatisfied applicants. The stated grounds for passport refusal go beyond the letter of the McCarran Act, which prohibits the granting of passports to members of organizations designated by the Subversive Activities Control Board to be Communist "action" or Communist "front." The new State Department regulations also forbid the issuance of passports to anyone "as to whom there is reason to believe, on the balance of all the evidence, that they are going abroad to engage ... [knowingly and willfully] ... in activities which will advance the Communist movement."

APPEAL GRANTED On the other hand, the right of appeal from an adverse decision is firmly set forth in the new rules.

Previously the Department could refuse to issue a passport without telling an applicant the reasons, without giving him any formal hearing, and without any provision for impartial review. Now the applicant must be told the reason "as specifically as security limitations permit" for any tentative refusal to issue him a passport; he can have a hearing with counsel before the Department's passport division; and if the result is still unfavorable, he can appeal before a special board set up within the Department. At least three members of the board must have had nothing previously to do with the case. This new review machinery represents the Department's attempt to satisfy a court ruling, in the case of Anne Bauer, that the old passport procedures violated the principle of due process. It seems likely at the moment that this ruling will be allowed to stand without appeal to a higher court.

ISSUES REMAIN The new regulations certainly are in the direction of the recommendations made last February by the American Civil Liberties Union, but a large question of principle still must be decided by the courts. To quote from the ACLU report: "While the Union recognizes that criticism of the United States and its institutions by citizens traveling abroad has some tendency to impair the prestige of the United States and its institutions, and that many such criticisms are untrue and unfair, it sees no reason for foreclosing, abroad, utterances of the sort that constitutional guarantees permit within the United States." There is no doubt that the State Department still intends to foreclose on such utterances. The new rules state explicitly that "Consistent and prolonged adherence to the Communist Party line on a variety of issues and through shifts and changes of that line will suffice, prima facie, to support... [a passport denial]."

DELAYS MAY CONTINUE From a practical viewpoint, scientists and others still must worry about the delay problem. Can the review procedure really work fast enough, or will the final hearing be held long after the occasion for the trip has passed? What can prevent a long delay in preliminary decision? The FAS passport committee is making a study of these questions and urgently requests data from the membership as soon as it becomes available. Continued vigilance is needed to ensure that the procedural reforms are actually effective.

BRIEN McMAHON

The untimely death of Senator Brien McMahon on July 28 was a grievous blow to the nation as a whole, and a particularly tragic loss to American science. As early as the first atomic bomb explosions in 1945, Senator McMahon grasped with prescience the political significance of atomic energy both nationally and internationally. Applying his great gifts to the study of atomic science and its social implications, he successfully championed the struggle for civilian control of atomic energy, a struggle which culminated in the 1946 Atomic Energy Act bearing his name. In his capacity as chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, he did much to stimulate the enlightenment of the American public in atomic matters, as well as to shepherd the Atomic Energy Commission through its initial trying years.

He early established a cordial relationship with the nation's scientists, acting as friend and adviser, giving and taking with earnestness, simplicity, and charm. His unique genius lay in a happy blend of an almost romantic idealism with a shrewd sense of practical realities. He was concerned and made proposals to deal with the international problems of human want and misery. At the same time, he was acutely aware of the needs for national defense -- down to the last step of securing adequate congressional appropriations for his projects.

Of particular interest to FAS is a proposal made in his last address delivered by wire from a Washington hospital on June 14 to the Democratic State Convention in Hartford. He said, "We need, I think, a little group of dedicated men... to take a fresh look at the control problem... [of atomic energy on an international scale]." A similar proposal, initiated by FAS last fall (see NL 52-2) was transmitted to the White House on behalf of FAS by Senator McMahon. At the end, as at the beginning, he stood shoulder to shoulder with American scientists.

Within the short perspective of six years since the Atomic Energy Act became law, this monument to Brien McMahon's efforts has gained general acceptance as part of our way of life. Brien McMahon, it has been said, wrote atomic history, the first chapter of which is atomic organization on a national scale. In that chapter and in the traditions of American citizen-scientists, his name will remain enshrined.

PARTY PLATFORMS and FAS OBJECTIVES

The problems of science, atomic energy, and disarmament got some -- but not much -- attention in the two political platforms adopted at Chicago last July.

ARMAMENTS The Republicans pledge "atomic energy weapons in abundance." They will, however, seek "universal limitation and control of armaments on a dependable basis."

The longer Democratic platform promises "to carry on the effort for a real, effective disarmament." It goes on to say, "We look forward to the day when...resources now devoted to the armaments program can be diverted into the channels of peaceful production to speed the progress of America and of the underdeveloped regions of the world."

DOMESTIC ATOM In their section, "Atomic Energy," the Democrats pledge to "maintain vigorous and non-partisan
(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

BW Front Still Active

AP, on September 15, reported a Communist Peiping radio assertion that charges of BW use in Korea and North China have been "confirmed" by a six-man international scientific commission. The commission was said to include Joseph Needham, well-known English biochemist; Swedish clinical laboratory director Andrea Andreen; French physiologist Jean Malterre; Italian zoologist Oliviero Olivo; Samuel B. Pessoa of Brazil; and U. N. Zhukovverezhnikov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Medicine. The report of the commission was not directly quoted, but Malterre was reported to have said that "China and Korea have indeed been the objective of bacteriological warfare and the forces of the United States are responsible for this."

BW AND RED CROSS BW turned the 18th International Red Cross Conference in Toronto from a conclave of mercy into a battleground. The atmosphere is suggested by the charge of Leopold Macauley, Canadian Red Cross official, that delegates of Poland, Communist China, and North Korea brought with them "packages of political garbage."

Working under unaccustomed public scrutiny and pressures, the conference unanimously accepted a Polish-sponsored condemnation of germ warfare and urged all governments to ratify the Geneva Convention ban against it (the US has never ratified the Convention). Also accepted, however, was a resolution inviting "the governments concerned to have these charges (re Korea) examined on the basis of a common agreement." Such a neutral investigation has been asked by the US and denounced by Russia. No concrete result is anticipated from the Red Cross resolution, since all of the Communist countries opposed it.

US POSITION REITERATED US unwillingness to ratify the Geneva Convention or give other "paper pledges" of non-use of BW and atomic weapons was restated and defended before the UN Disarmament Commission on August 15. Ambassador Benjamin V. Cohen noted that "the United States condemns not only the use of germ and gas warfare but the use of force of any kind contrary to the law of the [UN] Charter." He recalled that during World War II President Roosevelt "issued strict orders" that germ and gas warfare should not be used "except in retaliation." Cohen refused, however, to make this strong implication of policy binding in the present or in the future, arguing that "to do so in exchange for mere paper promises would be to give would-be aggressors their own choice of weapons." Russian delegate Malik then charged that Washington "does not wish to be tied hand and foot later when it wishes to use it."

Malik's recent assertions that effective control of BW is impossible were disputed by Cohen, who claimed that "bacteriological weapons to be effective in modern warfare...require industrial establishments, facilities for maintaining the agents, transport containers, and disseminating appliances" which "will not readily escape detection under an effective and continuous system of disclosure and verification..." Accordingly, the US believes BW can be included in its proposal for step-wise disarmament.

BRITISH LABOR VIEW An indication of the potential of the BW issue came in the British Trades Union Congress. Although it turned down a number of resolutions from its left-wing, it over-rode its leadership to accept one calling for an international ban on BW and British governmental initiative to achieve it. The action was taken despite warnings that it implied some truth in the Communist allegations.

INFECTIVE FEAR The Washington Daily News notes the raising of the question of BW sabotage in connection with recent outbreaks of livestock disease. One outbreak "seemed to follow the footsteps of a wandering German in Canada." A top Department of Agriculture investigator questioned as to the possibility of BW sabotage is quoted as saying, "At times like these that thought always occurs to most of us."

The thought, unlike the germs (we hope), seems to be in the air. The New Yorker of August 23 tells us that a severe epizootic of foot-and-mouth disease raging in France is being blamed on the Americans. En garde -- et ne pas éternuer!

A-Program Developments

Developments in the atomic energy field have come so rapidly in the past few months that individual events -- even major -- tend to get lost in the bewildering shuffle. The key, however, is definitely expansion -- in production facilities, in delivery techniques, and in delivering forces.

NEW PLANTS On the production front, the AEC announced the selection of a site for a new gaseous diffusion plant to produce U-235. This new facility, located in Pike County, Ohio, will eventually require some \$1.2 billion of the AEC \$3.5 billion expansion plan. Meanwhile, the \$1.4 billion Augusta plant, presumably for the manufacture of H-bomb constituents, is under active construction. Two older plants, at Oak Ridge and Paducah, are also slated for considerable expansion in the near future.

NEW WEAPONS New atomic tests have been announced -- at Eniwetok this fall -- raising speculation that a preliminary H-bomb may be ready for trial. In France, Gen. Collins said that atomic weapons are available for the support of NATO armies and may reduce manpower needs because of the advantage they provide defensive troops. Emphasis on tactical use of the A-bomb continues. Several types of present Air Force and Navy fighters are equipped to carry the bomb externally, and atomic artillery gives indication of being practicable soon.

NEW STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS In the overall picture of the US vis-a-vis Russia, worry has been voiced as to near future relative strengths. Our present superiority in both weapon stocks and delivery forces is assumed, but estimates of Russian capabilities are continually being upgraded. It is suggested as a good possibility -- requiring new looks at fundamental strategy -- that Russian offensive forces are outspeeding our defensive effort, while our offensive potential is cut by their growing radar networks supplementing their natural geographic advantages for defense in depth.

NO NEW HOPE Few of our national leaders continue to raise their voices in search of a long-term world-wide solution to this deadly and costly arms race; our policy appears to be based upon first winning the race, and then hoping our opponent will seek to reopen the question. One exception was the late Senator Brien McMahon who in his last speech once again pressed for a fresh look at the problem. While advocating maximum production of hydrogen bombs, he still proposed an active waging of peace, through continually forcing the problems of control into open debate and review before the people of the world.

SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES The hodge-podge of Federal regulations and procedures on the loyalty, security, and suitability of government employees may yet be reformed and standardized, despite the demise of the Nimitz Commission. On August 8, a report on this subject, prepared by the National Security Council, was forwarded by the President to the Civil Service Commission, with instructions to prepare a plan embodying the report's major recommendations.

Highlighted is the tremendous variation in procedures in use in different Federal agencies. The NSC recommendations define terms, set standards, and provide for central review of dismissals for security reasons. They fail, however, to provide hearings or appeals for applicants denied jobs because of derogatory information concerning their security, and they offer no solution to the admittedly knotty problem of reliance on anonymous information which the victim cannot force into the open.

FOR EVERYMAN Attorney General James P. McGranery recently ordered expansion of the Justice Department's Internal Security Section in the Criminal Division. McGranery said that the aim is to develop more fully information on subversion turned up by the FBI. No information on procedures was made available.

UN Under Attack ----- Role for FAS?

A wave of reaction against the United Nations, and particularly against UNESCO, is spreading through nationalistic and isolationist circles throughout the country. Under attack are US participation in UN activities and the efforts of many prominent citizens to enlighten the American people on the humanitarian aims and hopes of the UN and its agencies. Mrs. Roosevelt sought most earnestly to combat these hostile attacks in her UN speech at the Democratic convention in Chicago last July.

IN SCHOOLS Latest instance of anti-UN reaction occurred in the Los Angeles school system. By a 5-to-1 vote, the Board of Education decided that a pamphlet written by the Los Angeles superintendent of schools, who is a delegate to UNESCO, should be permanently withdrawn from classroom use. The Board decided that the document was sympathetic towards UNESCO and therefore not objective. Said a Board member, "I don't rank it with communism, but it must be taught in the manner our students are taught about communism -- factually and with no advocacy thereof." Similar developments are reported from other schools.

A resolution approved by the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 9, condemning the use of the UNESCO study program in public schools, suggests that a concerted campaign is under way. The VFW protested what it called "planned corruption of American children's minds and of the school system."

IN CONGRESS Related is Sen. Bricker's resolution in the last session of Congress designed to revolutionize existing treaty-making power of the Executive by reducing the supremacy of treaties over national and state laws. Further, resolutions proposing US withdrawal from the UN have been adopted by some citizens groups and two congressmen were recently attacked by a colleague for having served on the US delegation to the UN.

ACTIVITIES CONTINUE Meanwhile UNESCO, despite its exceedingly limited budget, continues its constructive efforts. Recent newsletters of the US National Commission for UNESCO (US Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D.C.; \$1 for 26 issues), an agency established by Congress, report the following UNESCO activities: a seminar meeting in the Netherlands on "Education for Living in a World Community"; an Intergovernmental Copyright Conference; a meeting of museum officials and educators from 18 nations to discuss the role of the museum in education; and a number of other conferences relating to international understanding in various UN localities.

Also progressing are plans for the establishment of an International Computation Center at Rome and a European Institute of Nuclear Physics, probably in Geneva. The July issue of the UNESCO Courier (\$2/year from Columbia Univ. Press, 2960 Broadway, N.Y. 27, N.Y.) reports on UNESCO's Arid Zone Program. Each year, UNESCO selects a special field of research for study. Last year the subject was underground water; the theme for this year is plant ecology. Reports on action and research directed toward reclaiming desert lands are also carried in the July Courier.

Party Platforms (Cont. from Page 1).
civilian administrations [of atomic energy]..., promote the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes..., build all the atomic and hydrogen firepower needed to defend our country..., and to "exert every effort to bring about bona fide international control and inspection of all atomic weapons." Both Republican and Democratic platforms contain pledges to support scientific research in the field of public health.

SILENT CANDIDATES Since the conventions, neither candidate has spoken on these and other problems of interest to scientists, such as passports, visas, and the... F. FAS' Stanford Chapter proposes action to interview and quiz candidates on these matters. The Stanford group points out that while the candidates have been questioned by labor, farm, and other groups, science has had no innings. The suggestion will be taken up by the Executive Committee at its next meeting, Sept. 20.

Amidst signs of rising opposition to the United Nations within the US, suggestions are being made that FAS should be more active in supporting and strengthening the international organization.

MEMBER OPINION One correspondent writes: "In 1955, consideration of amendment of the San Francisco Charter will automatically be placed on the UN agenda, and public discussion for the formulation of US proposals is now beginning. It is highly appropriate that FAS should take an active part in this public debate, since many FAS members have contributed or are contributing to the development of the atomic weapons which make the need for international disarmament and stronger international organization so urgent."

Another, speaking for a group of Chicago members who discussed the issue as raised in the May 30 NL, says, "Efforts to strengthen the UN in the direction of enforceable world law, at least to the extent of 'modernizing' the preamble of the FAS...We would not have the FAS make UN revision its major concern, issuing many press releases, etc...Nevertheless... we could think of no one in our group who did not want the US to make bold proposals for UN revision, or who did not favor the passage of bills putting the US on record as favoring a UN with more power, both political and economic; i.e. political power tending in the direction of limited federal world government; economic power tending in the direction of a limited World Development Authority. If we favor these ideas and proposals, and if they need public and organizational support, then why not go on record?"

AMEND PREAMBLE? The Washington Office recently received from Council Delegate David Hill a suggested revised Preamble to the FAS Constitution. The revision, which is being proposed as a Constitutional amendment, will come before the Council for vote in November and will shortly be distributed to chapters and members-at-large. It somewhat reduces the prominence of atomic control problems in the existing Preamble, lays great stress on the concept of "openness" in national and international organization, and specifically enumerates as an FAS objective: "To promote, in these and other ways appropriate to an organization of scientists, the development of the United Nations into an authority of such defined and limited powers as are required for the enactment, interpretation, and enforcement of world law to prevent aggression and to maintain peace."

Critical comments on greater FAS support for UN, and the forms it might take, are invited and will be given space in the next Newsletter.

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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NSF Items

FELLOWSHIPS NSF expects to award about 600 graduate fellowships for the academic year, 1953-54. Applications may be obtained from the NSF, Washington 25, D.C. after October 1, 1952 and must be returned to the Fellowship Office, National Research Council, by January 5, 1953. Stipend will be \$1400 for first year students, \$1600 for second year, \$1800 for third year, and \$3400 for post-doctoral fellows. Allowances will be provided for dependents, tuition, laboratory fees, and limited travel expenses.

FEDERAL RESEARCH SUPPORT NSF is compiling information on grants or contracts made by federal agencies with educational and other non-profit

institutions during fiscal years 1951 and 1952. The information is being compiled under various functional classifications including basic research, applied research, development, and increase of facilities; also under subject classifications including biological, medical, agricultural, physical, mathematical, engineering, and social sciences; and by states and institutions.

The survey, which arises from NSF responsibility to develop a national science policy, is being made at the request of the Bureau of the Budget and is to be completed by January 1, 1953. The need is emphasized by recent estimates provided by Paul R. Beall, scientific consultant of the Air Research and Development Command. Of the \$2.9 billion to be spent for research and development this year throughout the nation, the government will contribute about \$1.6 billion, industry about \$1.1 billion, and universities and other institutions the remainder. About 70% of the research engineers and scientists in the country are working on problems for the Department of Defense and the Atomic Energy Commission.

NEW APPOINTMENTS Dr. Fernandus Payne, former Univ. of Indiana Dean of Arts and Science, has been appointed to succeed Dr. John Field as assistant director for the Division of Biological and Medical Sciences. Other appointments include Dr. Louis Levin of ONR, program director for regulatory biology, Dr. Frank H. Johnson of Princeton, program director for developmental biology, and Dr. William L. Duren, Jr. of Tulane, acting program director for mathematics.

NO SECURITY IN SPACE

On September 3 the UP reported from Stuttgart, Germany that the International Astronautic Federation has refused "to use its studies on space travel for work of a military nature." The group hopes to open space exploration on an international basis and thereby prevent the misuse of science by national ambitions.

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CONDON FINALLY HEARD

In Chicago on September 5, the House Un-American Activities Committee held hearings on its charges against Dr. Edward U. Condon. Officially publicized by the Committee in Washington over 4 years ago, the charges had for several months before then "leaked" and been used in magazine articles by J. Parnell Thomas, then chairman of the HUAC. Mr. Thomas did not attend the Chicago hearing, having in the interim served a sentence in a Federal penitentiary. On hand, however, were Reps. Vail and Velde, past and present members respectively of the Committee -- and both coincidentally up for re-election in Illinois districts. Their presence possibly explained why the hearing was held at this particular time in Chicago and why Condon, who earlier vigorously sought a hearing, now appeared under subpoena. It appeared that it was too late to repair the damage done him and that other purposes were being served by the belated hearings in this election year.

OLD CHARGES RE-HASHED The hearing was well attended by scientists and others friendly to Condon, and many were turned away from the small meeting room. According to the Christian Science Monitor (Sept. 9), "the witness answered [all questions] with poise. At the end he was free of any charge against him."

Much of the questioning centered on Condon's acquaintances, several of whom figured in previous HUAC testimony. Concerning his association with Nathan Silvermaster, alleged by Elizabeth Bentley to have been a member of an espionage ring, Condon conceded acquaintanceship with Silvermaster but denied any knowledge of his alleged espionage activities.

Much attention was also given to a letter from Condon to J. R. Oppenheimer, in which Condon explained why he left the Manhattan Project. Among other reasons, he was dissatisfied with Gen. Groves' ruling that the associate director of Los Alamos could not talk with Dr. Arthur Compton of the University of Chicago laboratory about work being done at Los Alamos. Condon felt that scientists in top positions should be free to discuss problems with each other, that strict compartmentalization would isolate the group at Los Alamos intellectually, and that with such rigid restrictions he might unwittingly violate security. He therefore preferred to concentrate his efforts on radar work at Westinghouse. Asked whether he had ever investigated the extent of enemy espionage as a basis for criticizing security measures, Condon drily admitted that he had no extensive experience in counter-espionage.

WINS MORAL VICTORY At the conclusion of the testimony, only Rep. Vail considered that further investigation was called for and all but the most rabid elements of the press chalked up a moral victory for Condon.

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