

picture of the chart showing the times when we observed spontaneous fission events in the element 101 chemical fraction. Our various "Hoorays!" written on the chart were deeply felt.

But it wasn't 0300 yet. We had decided that if we found the element we would call Glenn at that time to let him know the good news! The last one came in at 0315 so I called him around 0330. Although quite sleepy he, of course, was very pleased. I went one step further and told him that we had not only found the element we had also decided on a name for it - mendelevium. The name suggestion came about a year before our discovery when Jack Hollander proposed it at lunch one day. He said, "Why don't you guys name an element after the famous Russian chemist, Mendeleev?" We all thought it was a good suggestion but difficult to implement because of the cold war but filed it away in our minds for future consideration.

After we had finally found the recalcitrant element, we discussed among ourselves what its name should be and found that we were in complete agreement about using the name mendelevium. However, we felt that if we used the cautious approach and asked the opinions of Lawrence and Seaborg they might agree for scientific reasons but demur out of political considerations. Thus we felt that an aggressive approach might be in order--that if we just called it mendelevium maybe it would be all right. And it was. I think Glenn must have gulped over the phone but he didn't object. Neither did anyone else! Everyone seemed to be pleased as a matter of fact. At the 1955 Atoms for Peace Conference in Geneva, the French chemist Haissinsky told me that our naming of element 101 in honor of a Russian scientist had probably done more good for international relations than anything that John Foster Dulles had ever done!