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AFCSG-15

19 January 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL CRAIG

SUBJECT: Support to H. J. Res. 7, 81st Congress - Proposal to Establish an Arctic Health Research Institute in Alaska.

1. It is considered that the following should be cited as reasons for the necessity of establishing this institute:

a. It should be established immediately that even a lay individual notes the prevalence of ill health and insanitary conditions that interfere seriously with normal life in Alaska. The impact of these conditions make one aware of the vital necessity for good health.

b. Tuberculosis is a major problem in Alaska. The death rate is nine times as great as that in the United States and hospital beds are not available for the majority of these cases. In some areas 25 percent of the population is suffering from tuberculosis.

c. Visual defects are quite commonly noted. Many of these defects could be prevented by proper medical care during their acute phases.

d. Communicable disease in general is much more severe in Alaska than in the United States and the death rates from pneumonia, diphtheria, and scarlet fever are much higher. The lack of adequate medical care is directly contributory to these high death rates.

e. In the field of environmental sanitation one really sees the major problems of Alaska. Sanitary water supplies are a mainstay in any public health program. Water sources, distribution systems, and treatment facilities that will function properly in severe cold must be developed.

f. Sewage disposal systems and treatment plants that do not freeze up in the severe cold must be designed for provision of this important service to the population of Alaska.

g. Proper regulation of food supplies through good sanitary practice from source to consumer is necessary. Research to determine what constitutes good practical sanitary practice in these areas should be initiated.

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h. The disposal of garbage and other waste is an unanswered problem. These materials must not continue to be collected in dumps. To date attempts at burial or burning have not been practical.

i. The construction of shelter with economical heating is an unanswered problem.

j. The provision of adequate housing and correction of the overcrowded condition that now exists should go far to alleviate some of the communicable disease problems that accompany overcrowding.

k. The development of clothing which provides adequate warmth in severe cold without undue restrictions is a major problem.

l. Research in the basic problems of nutritional requirements in severe cold and the adaptation of available foods to meet these requirements must be done. This must be related to survival under conditions of extreme cold, as well as related to the problem of disease resistance and convalescence.

m. The entire problem of the basic physiology of the individual living under severe climatic conditions need be studied and the knowledge gained be applied to produce efficient utilization of manpower in Arctic areas.

n. The control of insects is far from satisfactory. In many areas during the summer months these insects are in such density and bite so severely as to preclude outdoor activity.

o. Little is known of the prevalence and distribution of animal diseases in Alaska and of their impact on the general health of the territorial population.

2. The reasons cited above cannot be considered to be the official opinion of the Surgeon General, USAF, nor to indicate that he supports the establishment of such an institute. H. J. Res. 7 states that the institute is "for the use of the Public Health Service in carrying on research and other activities pursuant to the Public Health Service Act (42 U.P.S., Ch. 6a), with particular emphasis on health problems pertaining to the Arctic regions and in cooperation with the Medical Departments of the Armed Forces and with other private and public agencies in carrying on such activities." The effect this might have on military medical research cannot be clearly foreseen. Military medical problems are not synonymous with civilian medical problems in Alaska.

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Memo to Lt Gen Craig, 19 Jan 50

3. The reasons quoted in paragraph 1 would appear to indicate the need for the establishment of such a research institute. However, many of the problems would be corrected by the application of medical knowledge now available and by provision of adequate medical facilities (other than research) and funds to Alaska. Those problems in which research is needed could well be studied by competent groups from recognized research installations (contracts with universities) going to Alaska, collecting data, and returning to the United States for the completion of their studies. Attached as Inclosure No. 1 is a memorandum from Dr. Compton, Chairman of the Research and Development Board, to General Ruffner, of L. and L. Division, Department of the Army, indicating their position on this laboratory. The Air Force officially concurred with Inclosure No. 1. Inclosure No. 2 is a second letter from Dr. Compton to General Ruffner reaffirming this position. Inclosure No. 3 is a similar letter from Dr. Compton to the Hon. Robert Crosser, Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, which committee is considering H. J. Res. 7. Inclosure No. 4 is a copy of a letter to Mr. Crosser from the Department of the Army, in which a more non-committal position is taken. Inclosure No. 5 is a copy of H. J. Res. 7.

4. In view of the opinions expressed by others and concurred in by the USAF that health would be more improved through the provision of medical service rather than medical research, it is not considered that support of the Arctic Health Institute is indicated.

5 Incls:
Listed above

DAN C. OGLE
Brigadier General, USAF (MC)
Deputy Surgeon General

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Mar 7, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL CLARK L. DUFFNER
 LEGISLATIVE AND LIAISON DIVISION
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 ROOM 3C 912, THE PENTAGON

SUBJECT: H. J. Resolution 7, "Authorizing an appropriation for construction of buildings for research in Arctic health to be conducted by the Public Health Service."

1. In accordance with established procedure, I am submitting herewith my comments on the subject resolution in order to assist you in the process of formulating a coordinated report from the National Military Establishment. I would appreciate it, if the final version of your report could be coordinated with me.

2. A review of the health problems in Alaska indicates that these problems, insofar as the non-military is concerned, are not essentially different from those observed in the United States. Whatever differences there may be are on a quantitative basis, or higher incidence, of certain diseases such as tuberculosis and venereal diseases. These problems, which are presently of great importance to Alaska, are not due to the lack of research and development in these diseases, but rather are due to insufficient funds for an adequate territorial health service, medical personnel and hospitals, particularly tuberculosis sanatoria. These inadequacies may be defined as coming under the heading of "medical service" rather than "Arctic health research." Consequently, I cannot recommend endorsement of H. J. Resolution 7 at the present time.

3. With respect to research and development in environmental problems in Arctic regions now confronting the military, you will doubtless receive detailed information from the several Departments. I should like to state, however, that it is my impression that the medical services have facilities for studying these problems to the extent which present funds and qualified medical personnel permit. The First Arctic Test Detachment (Army) is located at Fort Churchill, Manitoba, Canada; the Naval Research Laboratory is located at Point Barrow, Alaska; and the First Arctic Aero-Medical Laboratory (Air Force) is located at Fairbanks, Alaska.

4. Since additional facilities may be required by the Armed Forces in the future for investigation of environmental health problems in the Arctic, I do not consider it advisable for the National Military Establishment to commit itself for cooperation in such research with the U.S. Public Health Service and to use the proposed facilities, as specified in the sixth recital on page 2 of the Resolution - "Whereas the Public Health Service is prepared to conduct and assist in the conduct of research in Arctic health problems, and the medical departments of the Armed Forces and other governmental and nongovernmental agencies are prepared to cooperate in such research, if adequate facilities are made available."

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5. In addition, it is possible that the U. S. Public Health Service may consider such cooperation to include the furnishing of such professional and technical assistance as may be required to fulfill the requirements of the proposed program. As you know, the present supply of medical personnel in the Armed Forces has reached a critically low point and it is difficult to visualize the medical services of the Departments being in a position to render such assistance on any substantial scale.

Signed: K. T. COMPTON

KARL T. COMPTON
Chairmancc: Dr. Sadusk
Mr. White
Mr. Brown (2 cys)
Mr. Richardson

KTC: JFS:cw

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National Military Establishment
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

April 11, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General Clark L. Ruffner
Chief, Legislative and Liaison Division
Department of the Army

SUBJECT: H. J. Resolution 7, authorizing "Appropriation for
the Construction of Buildings and Facilities near
the University of Alaska for Research in Arctic
Health."

This is with reference to your memorandum of April 7, 1949, transmitting for coordination a proposed report to the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee on the above resolution. Please refer also to my memorandum to you of March 7, 1949, on the same subject.

I have re-examined this matter and I am still of the opinion that problems peculiar to Arctic medicine do not justify the establishment of a special research laboratory of the size contemplated by this resolution.

The resolution states as one of its objectives the stimulation of settlement of Alaska. A far greater value for this purpose could be derived from greater public health facilities such as hospitals, clinics and more effective sanitation, than from construction of a laboratory of this type. I hope, therefore, that you will modify the Department of the Army's proposed report, in order, at least, to indicate the inappropriateness of construction of this laboratory and the fact that the expressed purpose does not appear to justify the cost.

Signed: F. H. Richardson
for

KARL T. COMPTON
Chairman

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Honorable Robert Crosser
Chairman, Committee on Interstate
and Foreign Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Crosser:

Reference is made to your request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the National Military Establishment with respect to H. J. Res. 7, 81st Congress, a joint resolution "Authorizing an appropriation for construction of buildings and facilities in or near the University of Alaska for research in Arctic health." The Secretary of Defense has delegated to the Research and Development Board the responsibility for expressing the views of the National Military Establishment.

The Joint Resolution proposes to authorize appropriation of not more than \$7,775,00 for the construction of buildings and facilities for an Arctic health institute in the vicinity of the University of Alaska, for the purpose of conducting research in Arctic health in order to promote further settlement and economic development of the Territory of Alaska.

These facilities would be for the use of the Public Health Service in carrying on research and other activities pursuant to the Public Health Act (42 U.S.C., ch 6A) with particular emphasis on health problems pertaining to the Arctic regions, and in cooperation with the medical departments of the armed forces and with other public and private agencies in carrying on such activities.

A review of the health problems of Alaska indicates that those problems, insofar as the non-military is concerned, are not essentially different from those observed in the United States. Whatever differences there may be are on a quantitative basis,—specifically, the higher incidence of certain diseases such as tuberculosis and venereal diseases. These problems, undoubtedly of great importance to Alaska, result not, however, from lack of research and development in these diseases, but rather from insufficient funds for an adequate territorial health service, medical personnel, and hospitals, particularly tuberculosis sanatoria. These inadequacies fall within the heading of "medical service" rather than "Arctic Health research." For this reason it is not recommended that H. J. Res. 7 be enacted at the present time.

It might be added that, from a military point of view, the medical services of the three departments already have facilities for research and development in environmental problems in Arctic regions, and these facilities are presently studying these problems to the extent that present funds and

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2 Honorable Albert Grosser

qualified medical personnel enroute. These facilities comprise the First Arctic Test Detachment (Army), located at Fort Churchill, Manitoba, Canada; the Naval Research Laboratory, Point Barrow, Alaska; and the First Arctic Aero-medical Laboratory (Air Force), Fairbanks, Alaska. Since additional facilities may be required by the Armed Forces in the future for the investigation of environmental health problems in the Arctic, it is not considered advisable for the National Military Establishment to commit itself for cooperation in such research with the U. S. Public Health Service, and to use the facilities proposed in the subject Resolution (sixth recital on page 2). It seems also possible that the U. S. Public Health Service might consider the cooperation of the military services to include the furnishing of such professional and technical assistance as might be necessary to fulfill the requirements of specific programs. As you may be aware, the present supply of medical personnel in the Armed Forces has reached a critically low point and it is difficult to visualize the medical services of the Departments being in a position to render such assistance on any substantial scale.

This report has been coordinated among the Departments and Boards in the National Military Establishment in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget has been consulted, and advises that there is no objection to the submission of the proposed legislation for the consideration of the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

KARL T. COMPTON
Chairman

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 Lt Col. Welch/74431/LM

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Honorable Robert Crozier
 Chairman, Committee on Interstate
 and Foreign Commerce
 House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Crozier:

Reference is made to your recent request to the Secretary of Defense for the views of the National Military Establishment with respect to H.J. Res. 7, 81st Congress, a joint resolution "Authorizing an appropriation for construction of buildings and facilities in or near the University of Alaska for research in Arctic health." The Secretary of Defense has delegated to this Department the responsibility for expressing the views of the National Military Establishment.

The Joint Resolution proposes to authorize appropriations for the construction of buildings and facilities for an Arctic health institute in the vicinity of the University of Alaska for the purpose of conducting research in Arctic health in order to promote further settlement and economic development of the Territory of Alaska.

The provisions of the Joint Resolution relate solely to the activities of the United States Public Health Service and therefore the Department of the Army is not in a position to comment on the appropriateness of construction of the subject laboratory or whether the purpose of the resolution justifies the expenditure of the appropriations involved. If H.J. Res. 7 is created into law the Departments of the National Military Establishment would, of course, render such assistance to the Public Health Service as they are able to render, when requested by the Public Health Service, in carrying out the purposes of H.J. Res. 7. However, in view of the critical shortage of professional personnel in the Medical Departments of the Armed Forces, it is not envisioned that assistance of that nature can be furnished.

The Fiscal effects of the proposed resolution are manifest since a proposed appropriation of not to exceed \$7,775,000 is provided for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Act.

This report has been coordinated among the Departments and Boards in the National Military Establishment in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Bureau of the Budget has been consulted, and advises that there is no objection to the submission of the proposed legislation for the consideration of the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Army

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