

326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

U.S. DOE ARCHIVES

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FEB 10 1959

Dear Dr. Cantril:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 6, 1959 reporting on the 72nd meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine.

We were very glad to have your statement concerning the Commission's cancer research program and specifically your endorsement of continued AEC sponsorship of the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital.

I have noted the Committee's concern over the breakdown of communications between the Director of the Argonne National Laboratory, the Commission and your Committee. I find this a particularly distressing imposition on the time of the members of your Committee. Mr. Tammaro, Assistant General Manager for Research and Industrial Development, has thoroughly explored this matter with the parties involved and assures me that the personnel matter has, for the present, been resolved satisfactorily and that a clear understanding has been reached on the matter of communications.

I note your comments concerning problems associated with AEC financial support of international topical conferences. The Commission, of course, encourages programs permitting the international exchange of scientific information and has indeed rendered financial support to a sizeable number of such conferences. I can now inform you that this matter is being taken to the Commission for decision relative to the liberalization of AEC support of such conferences held on foreign soil.

The Chairman regrets that commitments did not permit him to meet with your Committee during its February meeting in Washington. He will, however, try to meet with you on your specially-called meeting on April 26 and 27 at AEC HQ. There are several topics that he is interested in discussing with you concerning the forthcoming fallout hearings and the course of action to be followed by the Commission in assuring ourselves that our fallout studies are as vigorous and as comprehensive as the problem warrants. ~~The Commission also is anxious to reassure the public and the Congress that we are being completely candid in our findings.~~ In this connection there has been a special meeting of the General Advisory Committee for the purpose of reviewing the question as a whole and of advising ~~me~~ of any additional steps which, in their opinion, should be taken in the public interest.

The Commission

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Dr. S. T. Cantril

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Inasmuch as the biological effects on man are our ultimate concern, the Chairman would hope to explore this aspect of the problem with your Committee at its next meeting.

The Chairman believes the foregoing topics could be more usefully explored by direct discussion and is looking forward to an opportunity to meet with you to discuss these items.

Sincerely yours,

~~SIGNED~~

General Manager

Dr. Simeon T. Cantril
The Tumor Institute of
The Swedish Hospital
1211 Marion Street
Seattle 4, Washington

cc: Chairman
GM
AGMA
AGM/RID

The original re-typed in GM's office
to reflect changes indicated.

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