

326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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June 4, 1965

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

On March 26 and 27, 1965, the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine held its 108th meeting at the Pacific Northwest Laboratories at Richland, Washington. The ACBM had last visited the then Hanford Laboratories in 1961, since which time its membership has changed almost completely,

Management of the laboratories presently being taken over by the Battelle Memorial Institute, was described and discussed in some detail for the Committee by Dr. Sherwood L. Fawcett, the new director. Dr. Harry A. Kornberg and his staff presented a program of talks well planned to illustrate the scope of the laboratories' research activities in biology and instrumentation. This was paralleled by a tour of present facilities.

It is the feeling of the ACBM that the laboratory has shown improvement in operation and in its cooperation with regional colleges and universities since 1961. Further participation in educational activities is encouraged.

Building of the new laboratory, now in prospect, is strongly supported by ACBM as an important step toward the implementation of the vigorous and expanding research activities thus far developed at Richland. Present facilities are badly crowded and their location, originally desirable, is now under changing conditions needlessly remote from the administrative center.

ACBM believes that there has been developed at the Pacific Northwest Laboratory an impressive nucleus for what can become an important achievement in biochemistry. It is the hope of the Committee that the great potential of an excellent research staff already established in unique geographical surroundings may be energetically encouraged to develop further. Access to the Columbia River and the unusual ecological opportunities to be found in an arid region now being transformed by irrigation promises great opportunity for exciting biological investigations. New departures in radiation instrumentation

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promises great opportunity for exciting biological investigations. New departures in radiation instrumentation presently accomplished, deserve to be explored and exploited.

As presented to the ACBM, the plans of Battelle Northwest for biological research at the Pacific Northwest Laboratories sound attractive. The Committee is impressed with the complexities of the problems to be solved in the establishment of the new managerial pattern and new operational policies.

The Committee is disappointed that it will not be possible to arrange a joint meeting of the ACBM with the General Advisory Committee at Livermore in July, however, we are looking forward to such a meeting at the AEC office in Washington next October. It is hoped that an opportunity may be forthcoming in the not too distant future for the ACBM to examine closely present biological activities and plans for the future at the Livermore installation.

The ACBM met at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, May 14 and 15, and a report of this meeting will be forwarded to you.

Sincerely yours,

Fred J. Hodges, M.D., Chairman
Advisory Committee for Biology
and Medicine

Dr. Glen T. Seaborg, Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C.

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