

UNITED STATES
 ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

AEC 1951

Mr. Gordon Dean, Chairman
 Atomic Energy Commission
 1901 Constitution Avenue
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dean:

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was particularly fortunate in being able to hold their twenty-ninth meeting at the Las Vegas test site on October 28 and 29, 1951. For most of us this was the first opportunity to witness an atomic detonation and to observe first-hand the radiological safety operations in which the Committee has been vitally interested since its inception, and to which we hope we may have made some contribution. We are grateful to Mr. Tyler and Dr. Graves for making this possible, and to Drs. Warren, Bugher and Shipman for an interesting and instructive program.

While most of our time was devoted to field trips and briefing sessions, we arranged to meet formally on Monday to consider two items of pressing importance: the effects of the National Science Foundation's training plans on the AEC fellowship program; and the AEC's responsibility in cancer research and therapy.

The Committee reviewed the current status of fellowships in light of the plans of the NSF and supported the plans of the Division of Biology and Medicine to continue the special fellowships in industrial medicine and in health physics, and such renewals in the fields of biology and medicine as constitute a moral obligation. They were in accord with the decision to give no new fellowships, predoctoral or postdoctoral, in the field of biology and medicine, believing that the program of the NSF would serve to meet the need existing here. The Committee recommends that in the event the NSF proves unable to carry on an adequate fellowship program the Commission be prepared to re-establish a program in biology and medicine.

The Committee considered the cancer program of the Commission in light of the memoranda of Commissioners Glennan and Murray to the

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Mr. Gordon Dean

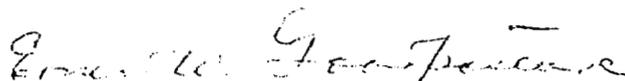
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General Manager (dated August 21 and 23, 1951, respectively), and recalled that the present program of the Division of Biology and Medicine evolved as a result of recommendations of the Medical Board of Review, chaired by Dr. Robert F. Loeb, which met in June, 1947, and of the Committee made at its sixth meeting on February 14, 1948. The cancer research program was initiated on passage of Public Law 269 (appropriation for FY 1948) which made available to the Commission \$5,000,000 for cancer research, this amount having been reduced by efforts of the Commission from a suggested \$25,000,000. Each succeeding annual budget submitted to Congress has contained specific items for cancer research.

Cancer is a specific industrial hazard of the atomic energy business. This significant fact justifies, in the opinion of the Committee, the continued exploitation of the Commission's special facilities for radiation in cancer research, diagnosis and therapy. The Committee recommends the cancer program be vigorously pursued as a humanitarian duty to the nation.

We are scheduling our next meeting for January 11 and 12, 1952, at the University of California at Berkeley, California.

Sincerely yours,



E. W. Goodpasture, M.D.
Vice Chairman
Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine

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