

DRAFT

TO: Lewis L. Strauss
 FROM: John C. Bugher, M.D.
 SUBJECT: 41st MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

~~As you know, The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine met in~~ ^{meeting}
 Washington on December 11 and 12, 1953. ~~During the two-day meeting, the~~ ^{gave special consideration to several}
~~Committee was briefed by the Division of Biology and Medicine on aspects~~ ^{aspects of the current program, the Division}
~~of our program of current interest.~~ ^{certain} The Committee took several specific
 actions which I should like to report to you on behalf of Dr. Stakman,
 Chairman of the ACEM, who is presently out of the country.

The Committee:

1. Approved "for administrative guidance" in the Atomic Energy program a proposed issuance by the Division of Biology and Medicine entitled: Limitations on the Release of Radioactive Materials. The purpose of the issuance is (1) to define for the guidance of those engaged in the atomic energy program the objectives in the control of the release of radioactive wastes to the environment; and (2) to provide practical criteria for the control of radioactive wastes in response to requests from Federal, State, and local public health organizations. ⁹ It was the consensus of the Committee that the statement prepared should be issued for guidance, but not for compliance for the following reasons: (a) the present state of knowledge does not permit long-term effects of radiation to be predicted with certainty and downward revisions of permissible levels may have to be made in the future; (b) if private industry invests capital and now constructs facilities in

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reliance on current permissible levels, downward revisions later might prove embarrassing and expensive; (c) the situation referred to in (b) would be vulnerable to political pressures in an area now free of them.

2. Approved a motion ~~to the effect~~ that the ACBM ~~should~~ advise or suggest to the AEC that a firm of experts be employed to make a survey of the cost of ~~off-site~~ radiological protection with respect to permissible levels of radiation ^{in atomic energy installations,} The motion was made in the context of the discussion on the discharge of radioactive wastes to the environment. The evident purpose of such a study would be to determine the relationship between permissible levels and protective construction costs. Ideally, a working formula or sliding scale would evolve which would enable permissible levels to be set, and modified upward or downward ~~on the basis~~ ^{as} of new scientific evidence ^{might dictate, permitting rough predictability} ~~with reasonable knowledge~~ of the dollar impact of such a decision.

3. Expressed an interest and endorsed the proposed program to establish a permanent medical facility and medical research reactor at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

4. Endorsed the proposal to locate a medical research reactor at UCLA and the use of Biology and Medicine funds to assist in the purchase and support of the reactor.

5. Viewed the motion picture film "IVY "; complimented its completeness and expressed the view that it be given as wide distribution as possible consistent with security regulations. The view was expressed that such a film would serve to relieve public apathy in the field of civil defense. There was also the suggestion that a companion film depicting constructive uses of atomic energy would ^{be in keeping with the theme of the} ~~complement the outline made by the President's~~ ⁱⁿ

remark
~~his talk~~ before the United Nations.

6. Resolved: "That this Committee feels that the subsidization of isotope distribution for cancer research and therapy has been of substantial benefit to the efforts to control and cure cancer, and that it has brought great credit to the AEC. The Committee views with regret the proposal to abandon this project and hopes that a way may be found to continue it."]

The Committee recommended that the resolution be transmitted to the Chairman, AEC.

I should be *pleased to* happy to explore with you the implications of the Committee's actions and to discuss means of implementation.

The next meeting of the ACIM is to be held on Friday and Saturday, February 12 and 13, 1954 at the Savannah River Site.