

Interview of Dr. Hymer L. Friedell by Dr. Marks and Mr. Miazga in Dr. Friedell's office in the Case Western Reserve Medical School in Cleveland at 9:00 am on 4/25/74. Dr. Friedell is Chairman of the Department of Radiology in the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. He was Executive Officer and then Deputy Chief of the Medical Section of the Manhattan Project. Dr. Friedell was the first medical officer in the Project.

Dr. Friedell described the stringent security involved in the plutonium project and mentioned the code names "product" and "49" for plutonium (the latter a transposition of the atomic number 94). He said that meetings at which the injection of plutonium into patients was discussed occurred for a considerable period of time before the start of the program. He stated that he attended several such meetings but was not present at any meeting when the decision to proceed with the program was actually made.

Dr. Friedell said that, although his headquarters was at Oak Ridge, he traveled a great deal. He mentioned familiar names of individuals at the various laboratories but claimed that he was not acquainted with the plutonium injection projects at any of the various laboratories where they were carried out. This lack of information included Rochester; he seemed to have no knowledge of who conducted the program or of the plans for carrying out the program there.

We specifically questioned Dr. Friedell about the Oak Ridge patient since we had previously received a report to the effect that Dr. Friedell had ordered Dr. J. Howland to inject the one Oak Ridge patient. In response to questioning, Dr. Friedell denied intimate knowledge of the Oak Ridge case. When specifically asked whether Dr. Howland might have made such an injection, Dr. Friedell responded that Dr. Howland might have done so, but that Friedell did not have knowledge of the matter. He said that others who may have been involved would

PROVENANCE

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EXPERIMENTS (OHRE)

COLLECTION: PLUTONIUM INJECTION INVESTIGATION
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have included a Dr. Dwight Clark who subsequently went to the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago. Dr. Friedell said that Dr. Clark was eager to inject radioisotopes into people and could therefore have been a prime candidate to give such an injection.

Dr. Friedell provided no information relative to the issue of disclosure to patients, including the Oak Ridge patient.

Dr. Friedell seemed most anxious to talk to us about the history of the Manhattan Project and his role in it. He stated that he had completed his training and was a certified radiologist in 1942. He was then in advanced training at the University of California in San Francisco under Dr. Robert S. Stone, but divided his time between the San Francisco and Berkeley campuses. At that time he was obtaining training in the use of radioactive isotopes for medical purposes. He was a reserve officer when the war started and was surprised that he was not called up for active duty. After a period of time Dr. Friedell discovered that the University had certified him to be essential. Taking exception to the action of the University, Dr. Friedell volunteered for military duty and was ready to leave Berkeley when the personnel of the Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley, principally Dr. E. O. Lawrence, requested that Dr. Friedell be assigned to the Manhattan Project in order to take advantage of his background in the field of radioactive isotopes. He was brought into the Manhattan Project as Executive Officer in the Medical Section. Dr. Friedell later served as deputy to the chief of the Medical Section, Dr. Stafford L. Warren.

Dr. Friedell went into considerable detail about the division of responsibility between the contractor personnel and the military with respect to the carrying out of research programs. He implied that the military had relatively little control over the research activities because the contractors

would claim that they had been assigned responsibility for the research. The contractors would say that, if their performance was not satisfactory, the military had the prerogative of terminating their contracts. He implied that the military, therefore, found it necessary to persuade the contractors of the need for certain programs. These were general comments and were not specifically directed to the human plutonium studies.

Dr. Friedell mentioned a rivalry between Drs. Stafford Warren and Robert Stone. He said that this rivalry stemmed from an early offer to Dr. Stone to become Chief of the Medical Section of the Manhattan Project, which Stone did not accept. When Dr. Warren was subsequently appointed chief, Dr. Stone resented the assumption of the prerogatives of the position by Dr. Warren. Dr. Friedell indicated that this event led to the rivalry between the two men but that the program was largely dominated by the contractor personnel, principally the scientists working under Dr. Stone.

Dr. Friedell then pointed out that during the period that this program was developing he had other responsibilities, principally concerning the atomic bomb, that occupied most of his attention. He spent considerable time in one of the two bombed cities in Japan. He stated that Dr. Warren headed up a team that went into the other of the two cities to organize studies. Dr. Friedell implied that he lost track of the human plutonium experiment because of his preoccupation with the study of atomic bomb effects and various other programs that were his responsibility.

S. Marks

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