

Files

March 26, 1959

H. D. Bruner, M.D.
 Chief, Medical Research Branch
 Division of Biology and Medicine
 TRIP REPORT ON FIFTH SPECIAL WEAPONS MEDICAL SYMPOSIUM, ALBUQUERQUE
 MARCH 16-20, 1959

SYMBOL: **BMM:HDB**

All of the sessions were held under security conditions and the participants were warned specifically to regard all the material as Secret or Top Secret even though parts of the program were clearly non-classified. The difficulty lies in the fact that the speakers referred to both classified and unclassified material often in the same sentence without designation.

As can be seen from the attached program the subject matter covered a wide range of subjects relating to missiles, warheads, methods of delivery, effects and biological effects. A part of the program was put on by professionally trained speakers from the various arms of the service. Their part was especially well done and involved the very latest and best visual aids. By comparison, some of the rest of the speakers seemed somewhat amateurish. On the whole, however, the program moved swiftly and on schedule even though we started at 7:30 in the morning and finished around 5 o'clock. One can only compliment Colonel Hanson on organizing and carrying off so smoothly such a complex 40+ hour program such as this.

Five Rear Admirals from the Public Health Service were present - Heller, Cutler, Felix, Holt, and Anderson. In addition, there was a Dr. or Mr. Frank Barton, currently at Battle Creek, who is to take charge of the AMA's interests in radioactivity and radiation matters. (He is listed as a doctor but described himself as a lawyer); he was a very difficult man to approach.

Marshall Brucer gave his talk on "Rads, Roentgens and Rutabagas" shortly after Hardin Jones gave his current views on life-shortening relative to radiation dose. At the break I complained jokingly to Colonel Hanson that this was a serious matter and that perhaps the weakest spot in the whole problem was our inability to measure radiation dose precisely. And so, at the beginning of the next hour, I found myself on the podium speaking briefly to the point that we needed better knowledge of radiation dosage, adding that if

(Continued)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

826 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION	US DOE ARCHIVES
RG _____	
Collection _____	<i>DBM</i>
Box _____	<i>3379</i>
Folder _____	<i>3</i>

1149445

March 26, 1959

anyone had any fresh ideas about how to measure dose received, we would be well advised to nourish the growth of such research and the AEC was searching for such men.

I was alternately depressed and exhilarated by different parts of the program. The extreme destructive capacity of the weapons is most depressing and yet at the same time one could not help but be intrigued with the beauty of the engineering, design and workmanship of the weapons and their delivery systems. They are so good that one is inclined to believe that the best brains have been used in achieving these. By comparison, the information and data on the biological aspects run a poor second or third to the engineering and design.

Most of the men in the class were of the rank of Colonel in some form of the medical services and it was quite easy to meet people and make their acquaintance.

Enclosure:
Program

OFFICE ▶	BMM					
SURNAME ▶	HDBruner:mf	ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT		154		
DATE ▶	3/25/59					

1149446

DOE ARCHIVES