

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : C. W. Shilling, M. D., Deputy Director  
Division of Biology and Medicine

DATE: January 5, 1959

FROM : C. D. Van Cleave, Medical Research Branch  
Division of Biology and Medicine

720145

SUBJECT: VISIT TO BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY - DECEMBER 16-18, 1958

SYMBOL: BMM:CDVC

Although we arrived at Brookhaven on Tuesday, December 16, in time to attend the dedication ceremonies for the Medical Center and later were entertained for the evening, the actual visit began December 17 with the Biology program review by Dr. Curtis. This was preceded by a perhaps overly long introductory account of the history and present organization of BNL and AUI by Dr. Haworth. In presenting the Biology program, Dr. Curtis distributed a mimeographed outline of the program and then repeated verbally the printed information with considerable expansion. Because of the detail he was able to cover before lunch only the program and its objectives in very general terms, leaving budgetary and expansion plans for afternoon discussion. This I was unfortunately unable to hear, since my interest in the Biophysics review which was to accompany the conclusion of the Biology review was slight, plus the more important fact that this time was practically all that was available for talks with members of the Medical Department, in which I had particular interests. What I heard of Dr. Curtis' morning review did not predispose me toward the Biology program. Part of this was due to Dr. Curtis' manner of presenting the material, which I found dull, and partly to the second-hand approach to the actual work done in the Department. If I had not had the opportunity at the October 1957 Bio-Med Directors' Program of hearing specific parts of the program given by some of the men responsible for the work, I am sure I would have very little appreciation of the work under way. In my opinion, it was most unfortunate that Dr. Curtis did not better apportion his remarks so as to allow time for the scheduled individual reviews to be given. Aside from this, I was left with the impression that the Biology program lacked unifying direction, that little of the work was truly on-site in character.

Dr. Farr's presentation of the Medical program on Thursday morning was in strong contrast with Dr. Curtis'. The only criticism I had was that budgetary discussions usurped time scheduled for individual reviews, which would have been of more general interest. There was insufficient time available for talks with people in their laboratories. I talked with Drs. Hughes and Painter about their work with tritiated thymidine, Dr. Paul LeFevre about his own work as well as his opinion of Dr. Nachmansohn's work on ionic flux in nerve, Dr. Bond on work which is the

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C. W. Shilling, M. D.

- 2 -

January 5, 1959

subject of a separate memorandum, Dr. Stoner on immunological subjects, and Dr. Stickley about the reactor. I appreciated the opportunity of seeing the hospital, new laboratories, and the reactor as they are today as opposed to the plans and drawings of yesterday. For a future visit I suggest one plan to spend a minimum of a week at Brookhaven with no distractions in the way of formal presentations.

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