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Ref: BM/SW

LONDON : 56 Curzon Street, W.1.

24th October, 1949.

Dr. Shields Warren,
 U.S. Atomic Energy Commission,
 Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Shields,

I have read your draft of a Statement Relative to Fellowship Program and I think it is good in content, tone and details. A few small suggestions are pencilled in on the copy returned herewith.

I am expecting to be back in New York by about the 1st November, and to attend the meeting at Oak Ridge.

It is a satisfaction to me that the Advisory Committee is taking the position indicated by this statement.

Yours sincerely,

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Alan

Alan Gregg, M.D.

Director for the Medical Sciences.

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National security in this age of science is best served by a broad program of education and training of the largest possible number of competent young men and women for research. This training should for most be free of the restrictions imposed by secrecy. Science will not long thrive in secret because intellectual restraints and taboos hamper the type of probing and wide-ranging thought essential to scientific discovery. Political restrictions do two dangerous things to scientists: alienate them by reason of lack of freedom of inquiry, which will merely retard progress; or distort their thought processes by orienting them about political points of reference, a process of substituting dogma for truth, deadly both to science and to polity.

The secrecy necessary for defense can be (and is) well and judiciously defined. Education and training should operate primarily outside ^{that} ~~its~~ boundary, so that the advantages of an atmosphere of utmost freedom may be realized.

Imposition of the conditions of F.B.I. clearance of candidates for A.E.C. Fellowships might easily extend to the imposition of similar requirements for every one who uses atomic energy in any form for investigative work. This would reach out into the academic life of private as well as governmental institutions like a blighting hand; for thoughtful men now know how political domination can distort free inquiry into a malignant servant of expediency and authoritarian abstraction.

A number of outstanding creative thinkers go through a "radical" phase in their youth, and there is always danger that liberalism or honest criticism of government will be confused with disloyalty, thus keeping some of the best brains out of the program.

There is obvious and urgent need of well-trained men to investigate the problems of utilization of atomic energy for constructive and humanitarian

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purposes. This supply of competent scientists can be provided only by an adequate and well-managed fellowship program.

The Atomic Energy Commission is the best agency for directing a fellowship program in the field of peacetime uses of atomic energy. It has competence, funds, experience, the vision that can come only from study and experience in this field, and an understanding of methods and objectives in the training of scientists.

Knowledge
^ ~~Of~~ only certain (and secret) aspects of atomic energy can be used to the detriment of our national security. Anyone who has access to secret information must be both loyal and discreet.

But for all other aspects
^ The provision of more scientists trained for research and service in scientific, industrial and military fields of atomic energy is a national need, now peculiarly acute in light of the successful atomic explosion in the U.S.S.R. The Atomic Energy Commission is obligated to meet it, with or without administrative handicaps, because of its special knowledge and responsibilities.

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine recommends that:

(1) The Fellowship Program be continued and expanded despite the adverse condition of loyalty clearance of fellows after FBI investigation imposed by the 1950 Appropriation Bill.

(2) The Atomic Energy Commission seek modification of the loyalty rider.

(3) The Atomic Energy Commission use every opportunity to emphasize the differences between restricted and open fields of research and development.