

Dr. Jacobson is on a trip and
will be back in the office on 5-3-74 ID3
80-312-547-5101

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VISIT WITH EDWIN R. RUSSELL, SAVANNAH RIVER PLANT, APRIL 23, 1974

At the time that the human plutonium experiments were carried out in Chicago, Mr. Russell was a chemist employed by the Metallurgy Laboratory of the Manhattan Engineering District. In this function he collaborated with Dr. Leon Jacobson who at that time was in charge of routine ^{metallurgical} ~~biological~~ surveillance of the employees in the metallurgy laboratory.

Mr. Russell stated that he was directly involved in this project in the ^{sense} ~~sense~~ that he prepared the plutonium solutions for injection and acted together with a nurse as witness to the fact that the patient was or had been informed that a radioactive substance was going to be injected. The administration of this substance, according to ^{the} ~~the~~ consent, was not necessarily to/benefit of the patients but might help other people. Subsequently, Dr. Jacobson injected the patients.

It is of interest that Dr. Jacobson instructed Mr. Russell to make sure that not all information on these experiments were in classified documents so that in case of legal action some information would be available to those involved.

Mr. Russell showed us the private notebooks that were kept during this period of time. As far as I could see, they contained information on preparation of the solution and other technical matters not relevant to this inquiry.

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Finally, it appeared from some of the remarks made by Mr. Russell that he knew of some of the other human plutonium cases indirectly and it is not clear at what time he obtained this information.

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Dr. Durbin expressed her opinion that additional cases beyond the first three in April and May of 1945 may have been studied because there ^{was a considerable} ~~was~~ considerable disagreement between the data ^{obtained} ~~obtained~~ for those first three cases. She felt that continuation of the experiment may have been motivated by the need to resolve ^{the} ~~this~~ disagreement.

Dr. Durbin showed us her correspondence with DBM staff members dating from 1968 and xeroxed that correspondence for our use. With regard to the contacts between Dr. Durbin and DBM, she stated that her first encouragement from DBM occurred in response to a letter dated December 10, 1971, to Dr. Joseph D. Goldstein. This occurred after several attempts to correspond with Drs. Bruner and Lotz previously. She said that Drs. Lotz and Bruner failed to acknowledge her letters. However, Dr. Goldstein responded by phoning her and discussing the matter. He thought that the studies that she had proposed would be important and encouraged her to go ahead with plans for such studies by submitting a 189, which she did during the following spring. She said that Dr. Goldstein had suggested that she propose the project to Dr. Born, the Director of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL). Dr. Durbin did so, but funding was not available for such a study. For a period of time there was talk of having Dr. Rowland, who was interested in the matter, provide funding to Dr. Durbin to conduct the studies. I believe Dr. Durbin said that Dr. Rowland offered to participate in the exhumation program. In any event, resistance to conducting such a program at LBL developed in the LBL administration. Dr. Born was concerned that the introduction of exhumed bodies into the politically charged Berkeley atmosphere might even result in picketing of the Laboratory by students.

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Telephone conversation between Dr. Robert Fink and Dr. Marks on 4/22/74.

Dr. Fink is a chemist on the UCLA faculty. During the period in question he probably assisted in the calibration of the solutions that were injected.

Dr. Warren phoned Dr. Robert Fink during Dr. Warren's interview and put Dr. Marks on the phone for a discussion with Dr. Fink. Dr. Marks asked Dr. Fink if Marks and Miazga could visit Dr. Fink that morning in his office on campus.

He was quite reluctant to discuss the matter and was concerned as to whether the interviewers had proper credentials; and were not reporters, rather than official personnel. Assurance was given that credentials would be presented to

Dr. Fink before interviewing him. During that conversation Dr. Fink implied acquaintance with the program. However, before Marks and Miazga left Dr. Warren's office, Dr. Fink called back to say that he had confused polonium with plutonium and that he had only worked on polonium patients. During the second conversation, Dr. Fink implied that he had no knowledge of the plutonium cases.