

12 Jan 60
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Report of Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of Irradiated Food
6 January 1960
in Department of Commerce Building

The meeting began at 1000 in Mr. McCoy's office. Attached is a list of those present. Mr. McCoy stated that the purpose of the meeting was to quickly formulate a program so as to get it into the budget for next year. The ad hoc committee was to prepare a proposition which could be presented to the ICIF (Interdepartmental Committee on Irradiated Food).

There is no intent to displace any work presently going on.

Mr. McCoy stated that he was being replaced on this committee by Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Aebersold of AEC stated that since the army has deferred the Stockton Plant, other agencies must now consider budgeting. The AEC is interested in the program from the standpoint of "Atoms for Peace". Dr. Aebersold believes the AEC may be able to obtain supplemental funds for this. He further stated that the deferral of Stockton has caused other agencies world-wide to question their own programs.

Dr. Aebersold stated that the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy Commission is about to present their program (I don't know to whom). They are to hold a public hearing on 13 - 14 January 1960.

Dr. Aebersold desired to know the army's program. AEC will supplement this and offered to act as the coordinating agency for the other departments.

On 8 January 1960, a meeting of Industry and National Research Council personnel (Urbain, Sweigert, Morgan, Jackson, etc.) will review and evaluate the report prepared by the ad hoc committee on 6 January.

Dr. Aebersold then asked the question, "Is there any reason to anticipate any toxic substance caused by irradiation?" Dr. Rest stated there is no product formed by irradiation that is not also formed by heat processing. I don't believe we have enough data to date to make such a sweeping conclusion.

The next question, "Was there a civilian need for irradiation?" The answer to this was "No" but "nice to have" category.

There was then a long discussion of PL 85-929. Following which Dr. Schwab presented the army's program which was:

1. To complete the wholesomeness studies.

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2. To make an operational analysis
3. To study microorganisms
4. To study packaging

Since the Budget has already been submitted it is unlikely the army will get any more than the 500,000 requested.

The next question was, "Do we need additional radiation facilities" and the answer was "not for the wholesomeness studies". It was stated by Dr. Dave Rest that all this food was to be processed at Dugway. (I don't believe this information has been transmitted to the operating level). It was believed that additional facilities were needed for studies on quality control. When asked specifically if this referred to the linear accelerator, Dr. Aebersold stated it specifically did not. They were talking about a cobalt source and believed the best location for this would be at Natick, Massachusetts. (close to the fish industry)

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Dr. Schwab asked me to remain for the afternoon session as well.

Dr. Aebersold thought they should organize an operating committee smaller than the Interdepartmental Committee. This committee to coordinate the efforts of all the departments but each department running their own program. The committee would pass on the proposals of the various departments. The AEC would then request funds and pass these funds on to the department requesting. The name of this committee to be "Program Coordination Committee". This would in effect subject the various departments (agriculture, interior, etc.) program to the approval or disapproval of an operating committee. I don't believe the departments will accept this type of supervision.

If the army program as proposed is carried out the tentative AEC funding is too low. If the army carries out only the wholesomeness program then the AEC Budget must be increased considerably.

AEC Budget

	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Operating	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$400,000	\$750,000
Construction			2,225,000	

Much discussion was then held as to what food should be selected for a "Breakthrough" to sell the project. They thought fish had a good possibility technically and politically (4 members of the joint committee on atomic energy are from coastal states).

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The Interior Department (Fisheries) have estimated their budget need for next year to be \$200,000, providing someone else makes available the irradiation facilities.

The Department of Agriculture (one section) estimates their need to be \$100,000 and the other section 50,000. They desire a portable irradiator for going from one fruit crop to another. They have a real need on Hawaii - fish, fruit, etc.

Bureau of Standards - Their interest is dosimetry. They now have a 2-kilo curie source. Mr. Kock was very much interested in the linear accelerator. (He seemed to be the only one). They need no additional Budget for studying the source they now have. They are moving to Gaithersburg so this will delay any large study. He is interested in pulsed radiation.

The Interior Department plans to spend \$40,000 in 1962 and the Agriculture Department \$60,000 in 1962.

L. M. HURSH
Colonel MC
Chief
Medical Research Br.

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E.B. McCoy	
J.M. Schaffer	Commerce
L.M. Hursh	Surgeon General's Office, U.S. Army
T.L. Schwab	CSA Army
Bale M. Sieling	QMR&E Command U.S. Army
Maj. R.M. Rodden	QMRPA (AEC)
David R. Rest	QM Food & Container Inst. for Armed Forces
J.E. Macharet	Atomic Energy Commission
J.A. Dolston	Interior, Commercial Fisheries
M.E. Jefferson	USDA
M.W. Koch	National Bureau of Standards
E.E. Daniels	PHS - Div. of Radiological Health
Leroy D. Christenson	Agriculture
Samuel N. Klein	Small Business Adm.
Shelbey T. Grey	PPA-FDA-HEW
W.T. Fentzer	U.S. Dept of Agriculture
Paul C. Abersold	AEC

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