

Lewis L. Strauss, Chairman

November 23, 1954

Shelby Thompson, Acting Director  
Division of Information Services

LOS ALAMOS VISIT; MEETINGS WITH NEWSMEN

SYMBOL: IS:ST

Ken Fields has told me of your plans to attend the laboratory directors' meeting in Los Alamos provided you find there is no conflict with confirmation hearings.

Since Mr. Nichols has us working with Dick Cook on answers to questions about Dixon-Lates, I hope we are correct in assuming that you plan to hold a news conference very soon. This would be all to the good and should serve to lessen the defensive attitude of the AEC on this matter. There is a choice of three days prior to your planned departure for Chicago to make the Fermi award — November 26, November 29 and November 30. At this time all three seem about equally desirable, with a slight edge going to November 26, which would have the advantage of a day normally light in political news and a time that would give the newsmen some fresh fodder for imminent Sunday editions. A possible disadvantage is that some newsmen who normally would attend the conference might be out of town on a long Thanksgiving holiday week-end. We believe this would apply to very few, however.

On Monday we might have competition from McCarthy's return to the fray and from other items pent-up or saved up from before Thanksgiving. Some of this, of course, would carry over to Tuesday.

If you held a news conference here before going to Chicago and Albuquerque and Los Alamos, you likely would have handled virtually all questions which the newsmen in those locations could throw at you and have fewer problems in the field interviews. Chicago probably would pose no particular difficulty since there would be concentration on the Fermi award activities. However, at Los Alamos you could expect the Santa Fe New Mexican to want to talk to you and to center questions on the Blair-Shepley book, the Oppenheimer Matter and on the subsequent attitudes of scientists in the program. At Albuquerque you would no doubt get questions reflecting Senator Anderson's position on Dixon-Lates in addition

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