

Monday, October 19, 1964 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - D.C.

At 7:30 a.m. I had breakfast with Merrill A. Scheil (President, American Society for Metals), John A. Fellows (Vice President), Steward G. Fletcher (Secretary), Robert J. Raudebaugh (Past President), and John B. Giacobbe (Convention Chairman).

At 9 a.m. I attended the opening of the 1964 Metals/Materials Congress and Exposition, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Bellevue Stratford Hotel. I sat on the stage with Merrill Scheil, John A. Fellows, Allan Ray Putnam and others. I gave a speech, shortened version (30 minutes), entitled, "Our Heritage of the Elements."

After my talk I held a short press conference at which I was questioned about the Chinese atomic bomb test of last Friday, and I ventured the opinion that it was a plutonium bomb.

At 11:30 a.m. John Napier and I left Philadelphia on Allegheny Flight No. 903, and arrived in Washington at 11:40 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m. I attended the President's meeting with Congressional Leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House. Those present included President Johnson, McNamara, Rusk, McCone, Ball, Reedy and Valenti (part of the time), Bundy, Llewelyn Thompson; Senators William Fulbright, Carl Hayden, Hubert Humphrey, Bourke Hickenlooper, George Aiken, Everett Dirksen, Thomas Kuchel, Eugene McCarthy, Mike Mansfield, Leverett Saltonstall; Congressmen Hale Boggs, Mike McCormack, Charles Halleck, Frances Bolton, Carl Albert, Leslie Arends, and Thomas Morgan. McCone, Thompson, McNamara, Rusk and I gave presentations covering the Chinese bomb test, the Russian change in leadership, and the significance of the United Kingdom election.

I tried to indicate the type of device the Chinese might have tested by comparing it with the U.S., USSR, United Kingdom, and French programs, thus implying that it might be a simple plutonium device. I stated that these four countries took a five-to seven-year period to go from fission to fusion devices but the Chinese might make some kind of crude fusion device tests sooner. President Johnson gave an account of the Jenkins case, including his observation that he had not known about either of the arrests before last Wednesday night. Photographers took pictures at the end of the meeting and President Johnson read a prepared statement.

Tuesday, October 20, 1964 - D.C.

At 11 a.m. Commissioners Gerald Tape, John Palfrey, Mary Bunting, members of the staff, and I attended the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Atomic Industrial Forum (James F. Young, Kenneth D. Nichols, Louis H. Roddis, Jr., W. Kenneth Davis, Sherman R. Knapp, Richard S. Newlin, Chauncey Starr, Malcolm Tait, Oscar M. Ruebhausen and others) in the Red Room of the Army-Navy Town Club. I heard and commented upon reports by Young (advocating the renewal of the Price-Anderson Act), Nichols ("Implementation of Private Ownership and Toll Enriching"), Kenneth Davis (on production and use of plutonium and uranium-233), Mowton Waring ("Finding of 'Practical Value'"), and Ruebhausen (control of private restricted data--they oppose the AEC proposal).

At 12:30 p.m. I had lunch in the office with Arnold Fritsch.

At 1:10 p.m. I attended the Cabinet Meeting held in the Cabinet Room of the White House. Others present at the meeting included President Johnson, Rusk, Dillon 25.

- McNamara, Gronouski, Wirtz, Freeman, Celebrezze, Adlai Stevenson, Hodges, Gordon, Moyers, Bundy, Reedy, Webb, Shriver, Cater, Hornig, Heller, and Valenti (part of the time). Again the Russian changeover, the Chinese test and the United Kingdom election were discussed as well as individual reports by Cabinet members, discussion of the economic and political situation and the Jenkins situation. I gave a report on the Chinese test saying that analyses of air debris now indicate, to our surprise, that the device apparently contained uranium-235. I explained the Chinese production capability and use of plutonium and uranium-235 to make fission and thermonuclear weapons. I admonished them to be very conservative in estimating Chinese weapons capabilities at this time.

At 5 p.m. I received a telephone call from William Webster. He said that the Edison Electric Institute has their annual meeting next year in Miami, and they are anxious to have me speak at their major meeting on "Atomic Power," and how it has turned the corner. Their meeting opens on Monday, May 3rd, with their major meeting being held the morning of May 4th at 9 or 9:30 a.m. They would hope that my speech would take about 40 minutes. He said, in a pinch, I could switch to either Monday, May 3rd, or Wednesday May 5th, but they would prefer Tuesday, May 4th. Bill said that this is a big meeting with 4,000 or 5,000 people attending and he thinks it would be worthwhile for me to consider speaking to them. Because of the large number of people attending, he feels that a question and answer period following my speech would not be too helpful. I told Bill I would give this some thought and let him know my decision.

At 5:40 p.m. I received a telephone call from John Finney (New York Times). Finney asked whether we had reached at least a tentative conclusion on the nature of the Chinese device which was detonated last week. I said that such information could compromise our detection capability. Finney urged that we consider putting out a statement that the device was triggered by plutonium or enriched uranium-235. I suggested we get together for lunch. Finney said he was leaving on October 25th to 26th to cover Congressman William Miller's campaigning, and would not be back until about election day (November 3rd). It was left that he would be in touch with me upon his return.

Helen and I visited a number of David's and Lynne's classes at Wilson High School at parents' night and, hence, met a number of their teachers such as Truesdell (Lynne--English), Carter (Lynne--French), Breitler (Lynne--Physics), Strosnider (Dave--Biology), Ashby (Dave--History), and Irwin (Dave--English).

Wednesday, October 21, 1964 - D.C.

AT 11 a.m. I presided over Information Meeting 418 (notes attached).

At 11 a.m. I called John McCone. I told him it looked clear to us that the Chinese bomb which was detonated was a uranium-235 device, and I thought we should get word to the Joint Committee. McCone said that he would do this. McCone said he would explore further the source of the uranium-235 which they used; it may be the material which Khrushchev said he gave the Chinese, or it may have come out of Lanchow. McCone said they were having a USIB (U.S. Intelligence Board) meeting this afternoon at 3 p.m. and would like to have me attend if I wish. I told him I couldn't make it this afternoon, but I would like to sit in on some of these meetings. He will call or have someone call me about future meetings. I told him it was inevitable that the news media would want to know whether the device used by the Chinese was a plutonium or uranium-235 one; in fact, we have already begun to get calls. He said he was at the White House with McNamara and Bundy, and he would get a response on this.

At 11:20 a.m. McCone called back and said, in talking to McNamara and Bundy about releasing our knowledge of the content of the Chinese bomb, they felt we should do nothing for at least 24 hours; that we could say this was a matter which has not been fully determined. McCone said he would like me to investigate this matter, through the JAEG, as to what the implications are from the standpoint of weapon capability; if the source comes from their own products it would mean larger production; also there is the question of implosion. I said we are already thinking about this, and I have asked George Kavanagh to work on this from an overall point of view. McCone advised that he is taking care of the Joint Committee by having an interim oral statement made to John Conway or George Murphy.

The Commission decided to offer Ed Bloch the position of Deputy General Manager and John Swartout the position of Director of the Reactor Division (or Assistant General Manager for Reactors).

Helen hosted a meeting of the International Neighbors Club at the "H" Street Office. Polly Bunting and I spoke on AEC programs, the Geneva Conference, etc. Movies of the "International Atom," the Sedan shot and the Rover test were shown, followed by refreshments. The meeting seemed to go very well.

The problem of the Bodega reactor is coming to a head--the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards is for it and the staff is against it!

The AEC made an announcement today that the Chinese device used was uranium-235, which, of course, caught the news media by surprise. There is great speculation in and out of government about what this means as to Chinese nuclear weapon's capability. The other four nuclear powers all exploded a plutonium bomb first.

The Commission announced today the new plan for management of Argonne National Laboratory (press release attached).

Thursday, October 22, 1964 - Germantown

The Commission discussed the General Advisory Committee's recommendation that the Fermi Award be given to Rickover and Groves. Commissioner Ramey is unwilling to include Groves; so consideration is deferred until next week. The Commission discussed a report of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) favoring the issuance of a construction permit to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for the Bodega Reactor and the staff is opposing this action. We approved the idea of making these reports public early next week. This is going to be a very difficult decision for the Commissioners.

The SALMON shot (5 kilotons) in the Dribble series went off successfully in Mississippi today without venting. The Commissioners were present in the communications room when the shot was fired at 12 noon and heard it over the communications system.

At 12:30 p.m. the Commissioners and I had lunch in the Commissioners executive dining room with Hearing Examiners Samuel Jensch, Bond, and McConnell.

At 2:45 p.m. I presided over Information Meeting 419 (notes attached).

Lynne flew to Boston today to visit Radcliffe and Pete.

Friday, October 23, 1964 - Germantown

At 10:35 a.m. I called William Webster and told him that I would speak at the