

26 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. AMORY

SUBJECT: Atomic Energy Act Amendments

1. I attach a proposed comment for Walter Pforzheimer. Herb Miller has worked on this with me, and agrees.

2. For your information, we have omitted from the comment the following points of some interest:

a. Contrary to the December initial proposals, Section 11 (q) makes no provision for moving RD anywhere but all the way down to publication. This may be the work of the Joint Committee. Herb thinks it will hamper the military services quite a bit not to be able to move stuff to TS or whatever, and that maybe the AEC is thinking of dealing with this separately. (Query whether this is tactically possible, in view of the omnibus character of the amendments in other ways). In any event, Herb does not think this would hurt us sufficiently to warrant commenting.

b. Section 143 gives the Defense Department in effect an auxiliary right to clear people, the AEC giving its clearances full faith and credit. We have toyed with the idea of asking similar privileges for CIA, but Herb thinks we really don't need it -- and as I recall Sheff Edwards did not like the idea much.

c. Section 143 (b) gives the Defense Department a much greater voice than heretofore in the declassification of restricted data. This too may inhibit the process, but our stake does not seem to warrant comment. It may be noted that Section 27 generally gives Defense a great deal more voice in the work of the Commission, and an explicit right to take appeals to the President on AEC decisions. Again, no comment by us seems warranted.

d. Section 144 (b) (3) deals only with intelligence concerning weapons capabilities, and might appear to limit us if we were working on the Soviet reactor program. However, Herb and I read 144 (b) and 144 (a) as adding to each other, so that you could get that type of information in under 144 (a).

WPS.

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