

and Frank Pittman met with David Bell, Elmer Staats, Fred Schuidt and Kenneth Hanson of the Bureau of the Budget on the FY 1963 supplemental budget, especially SNAP-50, Shippingport follow-on (Rickover Project), and the MCR. After the meeting I discussed with Bell the reactor program discussed with Holifield this morning.

Helen and I attended an NAM reception at the Carlton Hotel and a reception for State of California officials at the Statler Hilton Hotel.

Wednesday, April 18, 1962 - D. C.

At 9:30 a.m. I reached Chief Justice Earl Warren to tell him that the campaign for the Earl Warren Legal Center on the Berkeley Campus has gone over the one million dollar mark. As I suspected he had already learned this while in California a few days ago.

At 9:55 a.m. I presided over Information Meeting 143 (notes attached).

David Bell called me to say he saw the President and wanted to report the results. The President was not willing to approve this budget amendment apart from the weapons testing part, which of course, is automatic. On the weapons production side, the President asked whether we need all those weapons. He said he approved the program at a given anticipated cost, in accordance with a balanced budget, and he now wondered whether we couldn't get along without some of those weapons. On the civilian power side, the President said, in effect, let Congress put those in if it wants to. Bell said he doesn't think this is necessarily the end of the story; however, the President's initial reaction was clearly negative. He does not want to unbalance his budget for these purposes.

Bell said he argued with the President as hard as he could: that everybody is in agreement, that the weapons production programs have been scaled down, that they now make sense. On the civilian power matter, Bell said he told the President that he had come to the general judgment that it was something he would be well advised to do, but the President would not budge. Bell said it is possible the President wants to see how much heat will be generated on this. On the weapons part, this includes the overruns of higher cost for current production and build-up for pipeline of 1963 and 1964 production, plus the Rocky Flats processing facility modification. The total is \$49-1/2 million. The President asked why we can't make adjustments by cutting down some of the weapons and then letting Congress put in some of the programs.

I mentioned that Holifield is leaving for California, but Bell said he won't bring Holifield in at this point; it might stiffen the President. I said Holifield and others want, at some stage, to talk to the President. Bell said maybe next week.

From 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. I attended an NSC meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House. Present were: the President, Vice President Johnson, Rusk, Stevenson, Ball, Foster, McNamara, Gilpatric, Lemnitzer, Smith, Murrow, Bundy, Bowles, Wiesner, Scoville, I and others, plus McGhee, Rostow, Johnson, Nitze, Brown, Taylor, R. Kennedy, Sorensen, Bell, Kaysen, Haworth, Betts, Keeny and others. The purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed nuclear atmospheric testing program.

The President opened the meeting by asking Secretary McNamara to discuss the proposed Polaris and Atlas systems proof tests. The Secretary described the need for the Polaris test and the nature of the test, and said he recommended its inclusion. He said that the Atlas test presented some problems with respect to the possibilities of an abort and the effect that this would have on the public confidence in it as a system. He also said that there could be a small, but negligible, health hazard in connection with such a test. In view of this and 421

other factors, he said that he would like more time to study the matter.

Lemnitzer spoke in favor of the inclusion of both tests. He showed a number of charts which pictured the locale and described in some detail the nature of the Atlas and Polaris tests.

I described briefly the safety considerations with respect to the Atlas test, indicating that it probably did not present a real health hazard but that there certainly were public relations problems involved.

The President then asked me to discuss the proposed surface shot in Nevada. I said that this is a shot in which both DOD and AEC have an interest, that it is an effects test that has to be conducted in the atmosphere and has to be conducted over dry land because its aim is to measure the effects of electromagnetic radiation on electronic instrumentation under possible operating conditions. I said that, in addition, the AEC has the aim of measuring the effect of weapons on weapon component parts.

The President inquired as to the possibility of a photographer taking a photograph of a mushroom-like cloud and publishing it. He asked whether the cloud would be of that type. I said that it is difficult to describe it accurately in those terms; that some might call it a mushroom and others not. In answer to his further question, I said that it would rise to about 20,000 feet.

Bundy and I indicated that there would have to be at least 24 hours' notice to the airlines and, hence, it would become publicly known so that possibly photographs could be taken. The President indicated that the shot should be placed at the end of the series, in view of these complicating factors.

There was then a discussion of the starting date and proposed timing of the announcement. Foster felt that the starting date should not be next Monday (April 23rd) because this is the day of reconvening the group in Geneva, and it seems that Tuesday or Wednesday would, therefore, be indicated.

Rusk suggested, and the President concurred, that the announcement should be by the AEC, and just at the time, without much lead time. I indicated that a definite time has to be set pretty soon, and Haworth added that 5 days lead time is needed, to which the President replied that we will be given a starting date with that much lead time.

After the NSC meeting I talked to Wiesner and Keeny and emphasized to them my concern that the COACH experiment might be displaced by the PANAMA CANAL project. I said that I am very interested in having the COACH experiment go forward. They would like a description of the COACH experiment's objectives, particularly insofar as these are different from the reactor method of making heavy isotopes and with respect to the fast recovery of fast-lived isotopes.

I gave a lunch at the Metropolitan Club for Siegfried Balke (German Minister for Atomic Energy).

I visited Howard Brown in Suburban Hospital, where he is recovering from a ruptured appendix of three weeks ago.

Thursday, April 19, 1962 - D. C.

Today is my fiftieth birthday. I received congratulatory telegrams from A. Petrosyants (Chairman, State Committee on Atomic Energy, Moscow) and Prof. V. I. Spitsyn (USSR Academy of Sciences).