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**INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE October 10, 1949

TO: / Dr. N. E. Bradbury

Copied From Los Alamos National Laboratory, Records Center/Archives

FROM: Edward Teller

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL FOR EARLY STAGES OF SUPER PROGRAM

*2 copy destroyed 9/2/54  
Unclassified Rev  
See Schedule 10-11/78*

10/10/49  
Memorandum E. Teller to N.E. Bradbury. Subject: Personnel for Early Stages of Super Program. (101049.ET)

The following is a list of those who in my opinion would be most useful in the initial phases of super development.

1. ENRICO FERMI. One should make a strong attempt to obtain Fermi's help and give him the maximum amount of responsibility he is willing to assume. I feel sure that Fermi will want wide responsibilities in the laboratory but no overall administrative responsibilities.

THEORETICAL PHYSICISTS.

Below follows a list of those theoretical physicists whose contribution would be of particular importance in the early development stages. Only those men who would make much greater contributions at Los Alamos than working on the super at another place or working in an entirely different field are listed.

2. HANS BETHE. The same comments hold for Bethe as for Fermi. I feel sure that the respective fields in which they will want responsibility will not conflict.

3. JULIAN SCHWINGER. The help of Schwinger is essential in case we cannot get Bethe to help. I believe that Schwinger would work most effectively with a small group of theorists of his own choosing. It is however necessary that he work at Los Alamos if he is to contribute effectively.

4. EMIL J. KONOPINSKI would be particularly valuable in the immediate future because of his great familiarity with details of earlier super work.

5. STANLEY FRANKEL. The same recommendations as for Konopinski hold. In case Frankel is willing to stay at Los Alamos, an all out effort should be made to clear him in the near future. If he is merely willing to act as a consultant, it does not seem necessary to push his clearance under the circumstances.

6. C. L. CRITCHFIELD. His contribution would probably be most valuable in effective liason between theoretical and technical work. A recent letter of his to Gamow shows that he would be likely to come if approached in the right way.

7. K. M. Case. During the war, he gained some experience in the Laboratory. In the meantime, he showed by his work at the Institute for Advance Studies that he is a good physicist. He probably could make real contributions to the program.

8. ELDRID NELSON is an effective and conscientious worker and might be available.

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*P.M. Lang 9-5-50*

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Gen. Radman 10-11-78*

9. MARSHALL ROSENBLUTH. He has just started work in Palo Alto. Some pressure and persuasion would be needed to get him to Los Alamos for good. He has done outstanding work and a strong effort should be made to get him back.
10. M. L. GOLDBERGER. He is a good man and at present has a fellowship at MIT. Some pressure would be needed to get him here. While an effort, it would probably be worthwhile.
11. J. CHEW is liked and needed at the Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley. Remembering Lawrence's attitude, it seems quite possible there would not be strong objection to his coming to Los Alamos.
12. JULIUS ASHKIN. This man has been suggested as one who may be available and useful. He is worth a try.
13. T. A. WELTON has been suggested and stated to be available as of next year. He would be useful because of his previous experience and in consequence it would seem his work in the initial theoretical phases of the super would be more useful than work he could do starting only next fall.

### EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICISTS.

The group proposed below is even more sharply selective than the Theoretical Group. The selection is not made according to reputation or ability in the field. Rather the selection is made according to specific value of these individuals to specific portions of the early super production.

14. NORMAN F. RAMSEY. He would be particularly valuable as an excellent experimental man who is thoroughly familiar with theory and who has been in contact with military application.
15. JAMES TUCK. Apart from his great ability, he was always interested in the super. Due to the present emergency, he should start work at Los Alamos immediately.
16. BRUNO ROSSI. Excellent and gets along wonderfully with everybody concerned.
17. R. L. THORNTON. His work would be most valuable. While he is probably very badly needed in Berkeley, it seems probable that Lawrence would not resist a strong plea for his help.

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18. EARL LONG. Essential to reactivate low temperature work at Los Alamos.
19. O. CHAMBERLAIN. His work both here and in Chicago has earned him the most excellent reputation.
20. RICHARD GARVIN. In Fermi's opinion, the best student he ever had.
21. WALLY SELOVE. Finishing experimental thesis in Chicago. Very good in experimental physics, electronics, and theory. Accepted appointment at Harvard but might be talked out of it.
22. B. T. FELD. Would probably be quite hard to get away from MIT but worth a vigorous try.

CHEMISTS.

23. J. KENNEDY. Would probably be better than anybody else because of his knowledge, ability and personality.
24. MANSON BENEDICT. First class man. Might be even more useful in heavy water production than at Los Alamos. However, could be particularly well used at Los Alamos because of his wide knowledge of chemistry and engineering.
25. W. F. LIBBY. Would be useful because of his familiarity with A.E.C. work, chemical knowledge and personality.
26. A. TURKEVICH. The one chemist who has given specific attention to details of super theory.
27. N. SUGERMAN. One of the best men in radiochemistry, specifically familiar with our field.
28. R. B. DUFFIELD. Same comments apply as those for Sugarman.

*Edward Teller*  
 E. Teller

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