

Atomic Energy Commission Makes Close Check on Loyalty, Character of Employees at Secret Projects

WASHINGTON—Some atomic scientists are objecting to the way the government has handled accusations against the loyalty and character of people working on secret atomic projects. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) has not disclosed how many employees may have been released for security reasons. Some scientists say that because there has been no announcement it is likely not more than a very few people. If any, have been dismissed.

But M. Gerson and M. L. Lesser, atomic scientists at Oak Ridge, Tenn., writing in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, say two research men at Oak Ridge have been suspended pending a hearing and six others notified there is "uncertainty" over their cases. T. H. Davies, assistant professor of chemistry and member of the Institute of Nuclear Studies at the University of Chicago, says in the same issue that several employees in the Argonne National laboratory at Chicago; several at the Brookhaven, N. Y., laboratory and one at the Hanford, Wash., plant also have been notified.

Atomic officials who were asked about this said it is the policy of the commission not to comment on any loyalty cases. They added that the issue is not over the giving away of atomic secrets to spies or other governments. Such a case probably would be a criminal one, handled by the courts.

But the Atomic Energy Act requires the AEC to keep a check on the character, loyalty and associates of the thousands of persons working in atomic plants and related projects who have access to secret information. The main purpose is to weed out any likely to become disloyal in the future, or ones who may carelessly give out secrets by accident—just by talking too much.

Inquiry Rules Listed
The commission has issued a set of rules, called the Interim Procedure, for local hearings. Analyzing the situation and the hearings that have been held, Gerson and Lesser, members of the Association of Oak Ridge Engineers and Scientists, propose some changes. These are based on a study made by a group

of association members. They say two problems are involved:
1. Dealing with people who disclose atomic secrets. (Who under the AEC Act would be tried in courts of law.) 2. Constantly checking employees to be sure they are and will remain completely trustworthy.

"We are concerned with the way in which the second principle can, in practice, be abused," the two men write. "Assuring that employees are completely trustworthy may be changed to 'assuring that employees hold exactly the same political opinions as those held by persons in political power.'"

They recommended that all accusations be backed up by witnesses; that the prosecution be required to prove the accusations are true, as in a court of law, and that the prosecution be required to explain why the accusations, if true, might lead to a future disloyal act. Under present rules, prosecution witnesses are not necessary. Thus the accused may not have the chance to confront his accuser, may not even know who he is. Officials of the AEC say this is necessary because:

1. They do not have authority to subpoena witnesses. 2. The FBI investigates the cases, and the FBI feels it is necessary to protect the people who give it information.
Many Cases Merely Rumors
Furthermore, AEC spokesmen say, the accusations are not "charges," in the legal sense, but represent information about an employee which it seems necessary to have the employee explain. But Lesser and Gerson say an adverse decision can seriously cut the earning power of

They'll Do It Every Time



Trollers Protest Sports Fishing in Closed Season



PORTLAND, July 14 (AP)—Oregon's deep sea salmon troller's complained yesterday, to the State Fish Commission that Washington permitted a two-week early start and also protested sports fishing in the closed commercial season.

Andrew Naterlin, New England Fish Company manager at Newport, Ore., said commercial fishermen resented the June 15 opening in Washington. The Oregon season opened July 1 and Washington was expected to open the same date.

Astoria packing firm representatives said there were heavy landings of silversides in Washington and none in Oregon until July 1 as a result. Commission members made no comment.

Naterlin said the commercial fishermen felt excursion boats, carrying tourists, should not be allowed to troll in deep waters when the commercial season is closed.

Chairman John C. Veatch said the commission would examine the protests before attending the Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting at Bellingham next month.

To make toasted bread crumbs trim the crusts from slices of stale bread; dry slices in a slow oven until they are thoroughly crisped but not browned. Crush fine and sift, before using, if desired.

Assumes Duties As Superintendent of Sutherlin Schools



William W. Riddlebarger, above, formerly of Crane, Ore., will serve as superintendent of schools at Sutherlin in the coming year. He assumed his duties recently after coming from Crane. A native of Idaho, Riddlebarger served as school principal at Crane for the past year and at New Plymouth, Ida., for three years. Twenty-nine miles south of Burns, the Crane district is one of the largest in extent in Oregon, being from 180 to 200 miles long. Riddlebarger explained the school had an enrollment of 53 pupils, including 18 girls.

Because of its large area, the Crane district is one of the few public school districts in the nation maintaining a dormitory and boarding facilities for its pupils. The closest school for Class B competition is John Day, 100 miles away.

Riddlebarger has brought Orrin Hills with him to serve as head coach at Sutherlin High School. Hills served with Riddlebarger at Crane and previously in Idaho.

Mr. and Mrs. Riddlebarger are residing this summer in the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry

Six Children Adopted in Mass Ceremony

PORTLAND, July 14 (AP)—Six brothers and sisters, their parents separated and their mother ill, had new homes today in a mass adoption ceremony. The three boys and three girls, ranging in age from 2 to 7, were adopted by six members of the Central Church of Christ, to whose pastor the mother appealed when she was unable to care for them.

Judge Donald E. Long withheld the name of the mother.

Children enjoy rolls when they are cut into tiny slices; the small slices may be buttered and spread with jam.

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