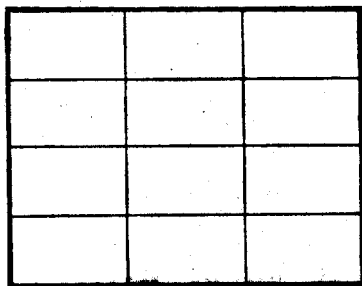


Thoughts on the AEC Atomic Energy Com. 1954

The physical world exists in conformity with what are called laws, many of which have already been discovered and formulated. Others still await discovery. These others are called "secrets of Nature" but unlike ~~human~~ secrets they are and always will be free to the inquiring minds of any nationality; only in priority of discovery and their present formulations could they be regarded as national property. So in the long view, though governments may regard scientific discoveries as proprietary secrets it is dangerous <sup>for any government</sup> to take proprietary attitudes toward our present knowledge of Nature's laws for that obscures the greater importance of learning even more. Hence the advantage of "possessing" the secrets of <sup>the</sup> atomic bomb is a real advantage but none the less a temporary and deceptive one. What matters is competence in research. The ability to make money over tops skill in hiding it: those who can't make it attach great

importance to the techniques of concealment. If the above be true one may ask whether the security of the United States warrants the AEC denying itself access to <sup>exceptionally</sup> any, <sup>gifted</sup> investigator. The success of the Manhattan Project lay more in <sup>its</sup> having access to Gypenheimer than vice versa. With the establishment of the AEC the task seems to have changed for now knowledge is to be withheld as well as obtained and conduct thought appropriate for <sup>hiding</sup> ~~hiding~~ ~~knowledge~~ <sup>becomes essential</sup>. By the terms of the Atomic Energy Act the AEC's duty is to reach a determination as to the character associations and loyalty of an individual engaged in the work of the Commission. Perfectly within these terms the Commission has reached, be it noted not unanimously, a determination that impugns the character, restricts the associations and denies the loyalty of one of its most precious intellectual resources. The decision has been taken earnestly and finally, but on the ~~to me~~



false promise that the ability to discover truth may wisely be subordinated to an assumed national interest in withholding it. One set of laws has been enforced; I can only wonder whether the price tag of their enforcement may prove costly beyond present reckoning for I believe that <sup>our</sup> government

should ~~not exaggerate the value~~ "secrecy" <sup>and the harm of disclosure</sup> as to ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~value of~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~findings~~ <sup>findings</sup> ~~training~~ <sup>training</sup> and loyally maintaining scientific competence than in ~~unprovoked circumstances~~ <sup>unprovoked circumstances</sup> as to possible measures of subversive conduct: the value of ~~finding~~ <sup>finding</sup> ~~research~~ <sup>research</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup>

scientific

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