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HIGHLIGHTS OF JCAE VISIT - NOVEMBER 19TH AND 20TH

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Mr. L. New

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Senator Clinton P. Anderson, Congressman Chet Holifield of the JCAE, and Mr. James Ramsey of the JCAE Staff, accompanied by Mr. Richard Donovan, Special Assistant to the General Manager, Congressional Liaison, visited Los Alamos on November 19th and Sandia, Manzano Base, ALOO, and SAM on November 20th. I was with them for all their visits. While I feel confident that Mr. Donovan will make a detailed report to the General Manager, I thought I should list the few highlights of particular interest to you.

At Los Alamos, the morning was devoted to the weapons program and the afternoon to the Rover program. In the weapons session, both Committee members seemed interested in exploring the possibilities of standardizing on weapons types and Jane Hall encouraged them to request a briefing on the AFSWP simplification study by Colonel Poggemeyer when they get to Washington. In this simplification discussion, Jane Hall described a recent attempt by SWA to get Hughes Aircraft to agree to substitute [redacted] in the Falcon Program. She reported that she had just received word that Hughes insisted that 10.75" was the upper limit but did not give whatever reasons supported this position. Both Committee members sounded like they would remember this example and bring it up again.

The Committee members spent some time exploring questions related to the recent Gore proposal to limit all future tests to underground shots that would not contaminate the earth's atmosphere. Senator Anderson was particularly upset when he learned that the detailed scientific reports on the Ranier shot were still not published and in LASL's hands and that no accurate yield measurements had been accomplished on that shot. I think Bob Watt of J Division said that due to fractionization the radio chemical samples from Ranier indicated yields ranging from less than 1 Kt to over 2 Kt. Darol Froan did indicate

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that tests underground would be better than no tests at all if that was to be the U. S. Policy and Duncan MacDougall said that underground shots like Blanca, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did point to one sensible way of measuring underground yields. I gathered that Senator Anderson was opposed to the Gore proposal, including its unilateral feature, and that he thinks the prospects of a test suspension agreement with the Soviets are practically non-existent.

At Sandia, the simplification subject was explored some more and Senator Anderson brought up the [REDACTED] and asked where in the government was the person who could tell Hughes to give a fraction of an inch to get a cheaper weapon. He seemed to doubt that even the Joint Chiefs could do it. Also briefly discussed at Sandia by Mr. Holifield, was Sandia's practice of placing production orders with the same firm that does the development. I thought Monk Schwartz did a fine job of showing how essential this was in programs where the goal was maintenance-free, reliable, safe, and ready weapons.

The Sandia briefing and tour of Area 3 stressed the need for additional environmental testing facilities of various types; but did not in any way breach the confidential nature of pending budgets. They witnessed a tower drop of [REDACTED]

They also witnessed a test of a new version of a water braked sled which went fine.

A two-hour briefing and tour at Site Able was arranged at Mr. Holifield's request since his last visit there was while it was still under construction. Senator Anderson did not participate in this, nor the visit to ALOO which followed the Able visit. General Heath and the Site Commander did a fine job and I did not detect any critical comments.

At ALOO, we gave the visitors a one-hour briefing on the ALO organization and its relationships to the research, development, test, production and storage complex. Ray Stone presented the weapons program with the charts you saw on your last visit here and Jim McCraw discussed our role with respect to high yield weapons at dispersed locations. In the production field, we stressed the use of American industry in support of our integrated contractors. I think Mr. Holifield now has a clearer understanding of the large volume and methods of subcontracting used by Sandia, Bendix, and ACF-SAW. He did bring up the Pacific Mercury case and was pleased to learn that the firm now has two small orders from Sandia and that a Sandia representative was currently resurveying its quality status.

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Brig Gen A. D. Starbird, USA

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On the ACF-SAW visit, Senator Anderson rejoined the group. In this one-hour briefing and tour there were no notes of criticism. Jim Ransy did ask me privately about the fixed fee percentage for both Bendix and ACF. I told him that with Bendix we now had an upper limit on the fee of about \$1,200,000 per year and that at ACF I thought the fixed fee was about 4 1/2%.

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