

Memorandum of conversation, October 3, 1945, Miscellaneous Historical Documents Collection.

October 3, 1945.

With the approval of the President and in accordance with arrangements made by Secretary Patterson, a meeting was held in the office of Speaker Rayburn at 4:00 P.M. yesterday. There were present Speaker Rayburn, Senator Barkley, Under Secretary Acheson, Judge Rosenman, Secretary Patterson and myself. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the President's message on atomic energy. More specifically it was to determine whether the so-called long form of message, that is, the one which included a discussion of the international aspects as well as the bill itself, would delay or expedite the passage of the bill. All agreed that early enactment was essential. The only question was whether the last two or three pages of the message dealing with the international aspects of this field would unnecessarily delay the legislation. Both Mr. Patterson and I stated specifically that we were in favor of the President's general position on the international situation and that we had no substantial objections to the paragraphs dealing with this phase as written in the long form of the message.

After reading the bill over twice in detail, both Senator Barkley and Speaker Rayburn said that they felt that discussion and debate on the foreign aspects of atomic energy, and especially the bomb, have proceeded so far that it would be impossible to isolate discussion in either the House or the Senate and confine it to the

enactment of a bill aimed only at domestic control. In other words, they both felt that the long form of message would probably help rather than hurt the passage of the bill.

Secretary Patterson stated that this decision satisfied him entirely, that his only hesitation was on the enactment of the bill itself, that he did not differ with the views expressed in the last paragraphs per se, and that if they, the Congressional leaders, felt that it was better to handle it the way they proposed he had no further question about it.

After the meeting broke up at 5:15 P. M., Senator Barkley and Speaker Rayburn suggested that Secretary Patterson and I call on Senator Johnson, who is now the ranking member of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, and tell him that the message and the bill will both be coming up today. This we did. Senator Johnson was very cooperative and helpful and said he would be pleased to introduce the bill precisely in the form that it is sent to him and that he would do so immediately after the message was delivered.

GEORGE L. HARRISON