MEMORANDUM

TO: The President, White House

FROM: E. U. Condon, Director, National Bureau of Standards

SUBJECT: Loyalty and Security Procedures

Actual operation of loyalty and security programs within the government, in the atmosphere of suspicion and hate engendered by some members of Congress, is producing bad results:

1. Nervous strain, legal expense and virtual blacklisting of individuals on trivial and silly charges which ought never to be given serious consideration.

2. Especially in science, the bad name which the Government is getting as an employer, is intensifying the problem of recruiting men to work on urgent problems. We have a critical shortage of scientists anyway which is made worse by these abuses.

3. The Administration is harming itself politically by admitting by its official actions that these individuals deserved removal. Regrettably some actions taken may have been necessary, but many have not been necessary by any reasonable standards, and yet each such removal can also be attacked as an instance of earlier carelessness.

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in hiring such people.

It is urgently suggested that something be done at once to take
the place of the Nimitz Commission if that cannot be made effective. It seems especially necessary to get more balance and judgment into
the preparation of cases by Loyalty Boards in the sense of not pressing
action on silly matters.

Some of the solemnities which have occurred would put the
Administration in a bad light (rather than showing it as being super-
careful) if publicly disclosed. In support of this statement a few
instances from my experience are briefly stated. Therman Arnold,
Abe Fortas and Paul Porter and other Washington attorneys could supply
many more:

(1) A scientist described by his Navy superiors as one of the
Nation's leading experts on explosives was pressured into submitting
resignation without a formal hearing and has had difficulty getting
jobs in private industry because of lack of Navy clearance. This man
was characterized in an affidavit by ex-Senator Joseph Bell as "the
most anti-Communist man I know."

Charges: (a) that he belonged to a student Communist Club in
New York while in college in the mid-twenties; (b) that more than
twenty years ago he had sexual relations outside wedlock; (c) that he
 misrepresented himself as being associated with Naval Intelligence
 while on an official mission to Europe six years ago.

Defense: (a) True, but the Navy has known about this for over
eight years; (b) Same as (a). If every Navy man of whom this is
true were to be thrown out we might not be able to put a single ship
out to sea. (a) Denied. The man's commanding officer on this mission never heard of any such difficulty.

(2) Mrs. Harlow Shapley, wife of the distinguished Harvard astronomer, was put through the strain of suspicion from a minor part-time computing position, and to legal expense, before being cleared. Charges: (a) sympathetic association with her husband, Harlow Shapley; and (b) alleged carelessness in handling classified documents.

Defense: (a) Guilty as charged, she having been married to him more than thirty years and having had five children by him, two of whom are in the Federal service, fortunately not yet harassed for sympathetic association with their father. (b) Not guilty, as she could show that she had never had occasion to handle any classified material and so could not have done it carelessly.

(3) A woman in the State Department, under suspension and now awaiting verdict after a formal hearing lasting four days, was charged with association with Dr. and Mrs. Edward Teller. This seeming basis for disloyalty is that of association with the man who is responsible for heading up work on the hydrogen bomb at Los Alamos.

(4) A labor relations expert who was officially commanded for his work as an employee of our occupation government in Japan in diminishing the influence of Communism in the Japanese labor movement now finds himself in a loyalty proceeding, one of the charges being "that when you were in Japan you manifested a great interest in Communism." Abe Fortas knows about this one.
(5) A scientist was officially found disloyal in 1948 because he gave some money in a purely personal way to an acquaintance who was one of those indicted in connection with the Canadian atom-spy cases. This occurred after the Canadian acquaintance had been tried, acquitted and restored to his university position. The scientist won his case on appeal but only after paying a $1500 fee for a one-day appearance by his counsel, Judge R. F. Patterson, former Secretary of War, and thus was restored to his $7,000-a-year position. Now his case has been reopened, with no new evidence, on the basis that maybe the old evidence shows "reasonable doubt" of disloyalty.

Many more such cases could be cited. There are dozens of them known to Washington attorneys. There will be many more now that the F.R.I. budget has been increased this year by $30 millions or 50%, which is double the statutory limitation on what can ever be appropriated for the National Science Foundation.

E.J. Condon,
Director.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer

FROM: E. U. Condon, Director, National Bureau of Standards

SUBJECT: New director for National Bureau of Standards

August 6, 1951

In view of my forthcoming resignation as Director of the National Bureau of Standards, I assume that you will be asked by the President to make suggestions about filling this important post. I would like to make some comments which I am intended to be helpful.

The senior associate director, Dr. A. V. Astin, whom you know, is an extremely competent man. I would not hesitate to recommend him for the post nor I think would others who know his steadiness and loyal devotion to the work. With him serving as Acting Director, there is no need to act hastily in making a permanent appointment. Astin is an able scientist and an able administrator, effective in handling military development matters and having a thorough familiarity with the National Bureau of Standards. The only possible drawback to his selection would be that his devotion to NBS work, much of it classified, has delayed his getting the general outside recognition which he deserves and which I am sure he will eventually get.

In any case it would be desirable to consider a number of possible candidates and to get the advice of the Visiting Committee, possibly even to ask that the National Academy of Sciences set up a special committee to canvass the situation. Dr. B. V. Bronk who is on the Visiting Committee is, you will recall, also President of the National Academy of Sciences. It will be difficult to find many good candidates because of the complexities and difficulties of the job, the low salary attached to it, and the general severe shortage of scientists.

The following names occur to me as worthy of consideration. With each name I have made a brief characterization of the man but have not bothered to compile in detail at this time the fuller biographical details:
1. Dr. Lawrence Hafstad, at present in charge of the reactor program of the Atomic Energy Commission. Aable scientist and administrator. But his selection would surely make a vacancy in the important job he now has.

2. Dr. F. M. Morse, professor of physics at M.I.T. was first director of the Brookhaven National Laboratory and later was head of the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group reporting to Joint Chiefs of Staff.

3. Dr. W. A. Noyes, Jr., head of chemistry department of University of Rochester and of division of chemistry of the National Research Council. Very able and energetic, perhaps it is time to have NBS headed by a chemist.

4. Dr. Robert Millikan, professor of Metallurgy at Carnegie Institute of Technology, and head of Metallurgy Committee of the National Research Council. Very able. He is a member of the NBS Visiting Committee.

5. Dr. Frederick Seitz, professor of physics at University of Illinois and former head of physics department at Carnegie Tech. Outstanding authority on physics of solid state, good record of atomic bomb project work and other military research developments.

6. Dr. Henry Smyth, chemistry professor and dean of the graduate school of the University of Utah. Winner of various prizes for basic work on theory of reaction kinetics. Gave up good post at Princeton to return to center of Mormonism but might come to Washington in view of large Mormon church here.

7. Dr. Jesse Bean, professor of physics, University of Virginia. An extremely able man.

8. Dr. Oliver Buckley, who recently retired as president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories to come to Washington as scientific adviser to Mr. Charles E. Wilson's office. At age of 64, he would be good for a few years if he were interested. In any case he is an outstanding man whose advice should be sought.

R. U. Corden,
Director.