

from the Congress by the executive departments and administrative agencies.

As you know, under section 202 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the law requires that—

“The Commission (Atomic Energy Commission) shall keep the Joint Committee fully and currently informed with respect to all of the Commission’s activities. The Department of Defense shall keep the Joint Committee fully and currently informed with respect to all matters within the Department of Defense relating to the development, utilization, or application of atomic energy. Any Government agency shall furnish any information requested by the Joint Committee with respect to the activities or responsibilities of that agency in the field of atomic energy.”

Over the past 2 years a progressively better working relationship has been developed between the AEC and the Joint Committee as to keeping the committee informed. However, there have been a few situations where the AEC has not agreed to arrangements as to access by the Joint Committee to certain AEC documents necessary for its legislative purposes. In connection with developing mutually acceptable procedures, we requested that the AEC make a determination to allow the Joint Committee access to such particular General Advisory Committee reports as may be necessary for specific studies by the committee. This request was made in December 1959, but we have not been advised of AEC’s agreement on this point to date.

Another case involved the basis of a recent contract awarded for the construction of an atomic power reactor, which was submitted to the Joint Committee for review as required by statute in connection with the AEC power reactor demonstration program. The Joint Committee requested the AEC to provide a complete record of the selection of the equipment company because of possible irregularities in the selection process. The Commission has postponed a decision on making the requested information available to the committee pending a reexamination of the selection on its own account because of mistakes in AEC computations of the bidders. In the meantime AEC withdrew its submission of the basis of the contract for review by the committee.

I regret to report that we have encountered increasing difficulty with the Department of Defense in keeping the Joint Committee fully and currently informed as required by section 202 of the statute. In this connection I recently had the Joint Committee staff prepare for me a summary of items in which the Defense Department has not met its statutory responsibilities. For your information I am attaching a copy of that summary.

Sincerely yours,

CLINTON P. ANDERSON, *Chairman.*