

informed. A number of other SNAP projects for military purposes also are under development of which we have not been informed.

(5) *Compact mobile nuclear powerplants*

On June 9, 1958, DOD formally requested the AEC to develop a compact mobile nuclear powerplant with a specified electrical output for which they set a military requirement. It appears information concerning this specific plant and requirement was first made available to the Joint Committee by letter dated August 1, 1959, from the AEC.

(6) *Press conference on nuclear weapons safety*

On June 15, 1960, the Department of Defense sponsored a press conference at the Pentagon to discuss the problem of safety of nuclear weapons. The DOD informed the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy of this by letter dated June 16, 1960, a day after the fact.

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SENATOR E. L. BARTLETT

MAY 17, 1960.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENNING: This will acknowledge your letter of May 3 which had to do with the study of the subcommittee on the withholding of information from the Congress by executive departments and administrative agencies.

I have no examples of such bearing directly on the subject to call to your attention. My experiences have been related, but not direct. What I mean by this is that on many occasions the executive departments have taken action on matters of great importance to Alaska without consulting beforehand at all the Members of the Alaskan congressional delegation. Frequently, we learn of such decisions by reading the papers; on other occasions, particularly affecting the Military Establishment, civilians in Alaska are given information by friends in the military department there and we learn from them of decisions of consequence in the defense setup in Alaska.

Sincerely yours,

E. L. BARTLETT.

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SENATOR WALLACE F. BENNETT

MAY 6, 1960.

DEAR TOM: In response to your letter of May 3, I do not recall at the moment any cases of withholding information of the executive branch where there has not been some ostensibly sound reason for withholding the information.

Most commonly, of course, the problem is that a decision has not been finally reached in an agency, and I think it is understandable that the release of information must be delayed until the matter in question has been thoroughly ironed out within the agency or bureau involved. Other cases involve withholding of information because of a desire to make a general release at a particular time rather than releasing something piecemeal to whomever may happen to ask for it. Here again, I think the policy is generally justified.