

This was addressed to Admiral Strauss:

"It was not a conveyance to the President of any powers as in the case of the Department of Justice, or the Department of the Interior, or the Department of Agriculture.

"And Congress was so certain about this, that it established the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, and gave that committee special powers to keep in touch with your Commission.

"The purpose of the Atomic Energy Act, as I recall it, and I am speaking now from memory, was to establish the closest liaison between the Congress and the Commission, so that nothing could be done without the knowledge of the peoples representatives in Congress. This was because we were dealing with a new power of nature, fissionable materials, and the great capacity for disaster and for progress.

"So this does not fall into the category of privileged communications, which found their origin when George Washington as President of the United States declined to advise the Senate with respect to the negotiations of some treaties which he carried on.

"But we have come to a period in the history of our Government where it is no longer possible for the President to carry on negotiations even with foreign governments himself. He must delegate this power.

"We have a situation in which powers are delegated by Congress to commissions, and in which Executive powers are delegated by the President.

"I remember very well objecting all through the Roosevelt administration and the Truman administration and the Eisenhower administration to the Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act which allows the President, by signing his name upon a document which other people have negotiated, to exercise the powers of Congress to levy duties, and so forth.

"I contended that those agreements should not be permitted to become effective until submitted to Congress for approval.

"Now we are in a time when because of these great complexities, it would be easily possible for men of evil intent in the Government to throw about themselves the cloak of this old protective doctrine. But because of the complexity it is more important than ever before that men of good intent in the boards and commissions which Congress has established to exercise its powers should make full and free disclosure to the people.

"I do not want to suggest that there was any evil intent upon the part of the Atomic Energy Commission, but I submit that the story which has been told here from the very beginning step by step against the most resolute resistance upon the part of our Bureau of the Budget, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Department of Justice and everybody who is concerned in this Dixon-Yates policy—I submit, sir, that all of those facts indicate that the story has not yet been told to the Congress, and I do express the hope that the witnesses before us today will not continue to rely upon this doctrine which arose at a time when the delegated powers of Congress were not involved. They are involved here.

"And I say to you, Admiral, and I say to you, Mr. Mitchell"—Mr. Mitchell was the counsel—"in all sincerity, that in a matter of this policy every patriotic servant of the Government should come forward and say, 'This is the story.'"