

version Commission. Members of both parties supported it. I think the principal mover was Senator McGovern. Do you recall if your Agency took a position on that bill, and if so, what it was?

Mr. FOSTER. It was a very involved situation. We said in the first place we thought there was a mechanism already functioning that would meet the need, the Ackley Committee, which was the President's Committee at that time, but we were sympathetic with the objectives of the bill.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. Without any soliciting or any prior commitment, what is your position today? Have you given this matter further thought?

Mr. FOSTER. We have been asked for an opinion, I think, on it. I think this is in preparation at the moment. I think I would defer while this is being considered.

We are sympathetic with the objectives, certainly.

Mr. ROSENTHAL. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman MORGAN. Mr. Roybal.

Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Foster, I met a very vociferous man on the airplane the other morning who did not hesitate to tell all of us what was wrong with our foreign policy. He said that we as a country have a program for the exchange of nuclear information and also equipment.

Then he went on to say that we also have a program for the exchange of scientists conducted by your Agency, that these scientists from friendly countries come to the United States, then they go back to their country and finally get the information to—and he did mention India, and so forth. He said that we might even be conducting a program where Red China is getting some of this information.

There was no one there to argue with him as it was felt that it was useless to dispute anything he said. My point is this, it is a very dangerous situation to have anyone, whether he be a member of this committee, a Member of Congress, or any citizen of this country make statements of that kind. How would you have handled the situation had you been listening to all of this?

Mr. FOSTER. There are very firm legal restrictions on the exchange of nuclear information by any American citizen or any agency of the U.S. Government. This is only allowed under very strict and careful and prescribed ways, and only to certain designated recipients.

The Arms Control Agency does not conduct such an exchange program. The United States exchanges nuclear information with the United Kingdom. The law is based on the fact that presumably those—literally any of those who are able to obtain such information must have developed on their own nuclear capabilities which are also consistent with our own interest.

The only nations that I know that the United States has that kind of exchange with to the highest degree is the United Kingdom. Canada is in on certain parts of the nuclear information. So these scientific exchanges are not dealing with this sort of information, cannot deal with this sort of information.

Our Agency is encouraging the exchange of discussions between Soviet scientists and our own on seismic detection devices, for instance, seismographs and so forth, in an attempt to find a way in which they and we will agree on evidences that come out of explosions, be they manmade or nuclear. We find that these exchanges