

I think that these three are simply examples of how we accomplish that very important matter.

Mr. DADDARIO. Have you in fact used the Academy of Science for this purpose? Do you mean by what you have just said that in the event it did come about you would use them?

Dr. LIEBERMAN. We have in fact used them over the years.

Mr. DADDARIO. Could you provide for the record an example or two?

Dr. LIEBERMAN. We can provide for the record copies of some reports that the National Academy of Sciences have produced at our behest. These go all the way from assessment of disposal of radioactive wastes in the oceans to disposal in salt, or deep underground formations.

Dr. TAPE. In that connection, the Commission has been looking at what might be called the continuing relationship between the Academy and ourselves in this area of radioactive waste management.

What we are doing now is discussing with them the creation of a new group in the Academy which has a somewhat broader scope than we have used in the past. This has not been completely defined as yet but I could probably provide you a draft which might be useful in this connection.

Here is a case in which we indeed would like to see the independent input that you were talking about having the broadest possible representation of disciplines which would be brought to bear on this kind of problem. I think it will be useful to the Academy and useful to us to have someone who has this focus on a continuing basis.

Mr. DADDARIO. Commissioner Tape, it is a very interesting proposal you have just talked about. From it I understand that this group when put together, as you intend it to be, will be able to independently come to a judgment about something that ought to be done rather than have you ask them.

Dr. TAPE. What we are starting out with in the NAS proposal is that this committee of the Academy become fully familiar with: our own operational plans; the way the AEC itself has been doing business; what our operational practices have been; the plans for waste management; surveillance activities we have had; and the research and development programs.

I think you can see that in our bringing them into the picture we hope to expose them to the broad gamut of operations and research.

There are some restrictions. For example, we cannot have the committee involve itself in specific licensing operations because that is a specific function of the Commission's regulatory role. Although they can use those cases for examples in terms of the way things develop we want to be sure we do not involve them in the regulatory sense. Research and development and planning for the future is involved and we look to this as a continuing relationship where we will have the option of their looking at both general and specific aspects.

Mr. DADDARIO. We certainly would be interested in getting your views on that.

Dr. TAPE. These are preliminary. Discussions are underway with the Academy.

The group has not been appointed. The point here is that the older committees which have been involved, as Dr. Lieberman was saying, have at times addressed themselves to certain specific questions. Here we want a little broader consideration.