

United States Senate
Office of the Democratic Leader
Washington, D. C.

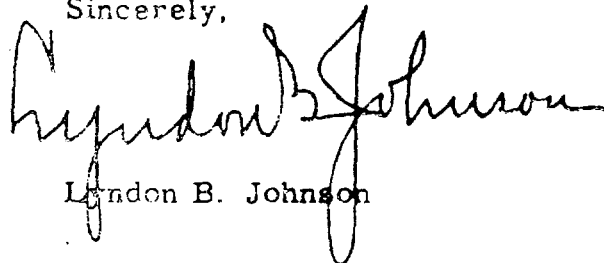
March 19, 1954

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a communication which I have received from one of my constituents. I will appreciate your giving serious consideration to this problem, based on its merits.

Please let me have as prompt a reply as possible, returning the enclosure, in order that I can inform the writer.

Sincerely,



Lyndon B. Johnson

P. S. Please address reply to Lyndon B. Johnson, U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C. If additional information is required, please telephone Mr. Booth Mooney, NA 8-3120, extension 1118.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D.C.

Section

335

3/22/54

11:00

Smith

March 16, 1954
(later than we think!)

Dear Senator Johnson:

Your news letter of March 9, as usual, is most satisfying. Especially am I glad to see you emphasizing certain points I'm always trying to put over to my Texas neighbors - "all of us are Americans before we are members of any political party" - and "It is the right and responsibility of the minority to point out the weak and the strong points. . . . Both opposition and support must be based on principle, not on partisanship."

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED

Now, may I urge you again to look deeply into the atomic and Hydrogen Bomb experiments, and

Then possible effect on the
whole constituency of this
planet & its atmosphere?

I wish someone could go
to the President, and quietly stir
toward a realistic study of the
actualities, not the opinions or
theories of anyone, including me.
But I must say that certain facts
I learned long ago in school,
about the atom and its nuclear
activity, seem to check with some
outlandish conditions now prevailing
in our climate, our geology, and
our animal & vegetable life:—

1. Excessive fertility, here in
our own yard — enormous increase
of branch, root, leaf, bloom, & fruit —
with similar increase in bugs of all
kinds —

2. Excessive "unusualness" in
weather & climate, climaxed by the wretched
dust storms that blow in from an area
where rain & vegetation are desperately

needed —

3

3. In this morning's Houston Post, a report of sailors in the Pacific, 80 miles from the scene of an atomic explosion, complaining of burns from "snow white ashes or flakes" that rained all over their ship — This was on March 1 — On March 11, reports came in to the Atomic Energy Commission of Marshall Islands natives receiving radiation — but no burns; yet a Navy man wrote his mother that some natives were brought to Kwajalein, "suffering from various burns."

4. Personally, I'm suffering from several peculiar conditions, including skin blemishes (warts, itching, lumping, etc.). I want to ask some questions:

1. What happens to the currents set up by this phenomenon of human resourcefulness, after they've been released in the explosion? Where does the reaction end? Do they know? How do they know?

a.) In the earth's atmosphere, as the globe whirls on its axis, and some of the enveloping air whirls back on the outer layer, could the "chain reaction" set up at the center of the explosion, penetrate and contaminate the lower air, exposing quite a lot of territory to some of the end-products of this blast?

x b.) Under the earth's surface, from this same center, could currents be set up, sending chain reactions ^{down} ~~downward~~ ^{outward} towards the earth's core, & through the earth's crust, causing some of the "unusual conditions we're beginning to notice" (weather, vegetation, animal life, and human behavior?)

x x

2. Isn't it possible that a thorough investigation of these problems, with evidence of probable effects on human life in general, might prove the most effective instrument for peace? This would go beyond the threat of extermination by an enemy with bigger bombs, straight into the immediate threat of misery and eventual extermination from within!

Sorry to write in long-hand,
but my typewriter's got atomic fission!

Sincerely yours.

PRIVACY ACT MATERIAL REMOVED