

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 1959

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

In view of the considerable public attention which has been focused recently on the radiological health studies of the Federal Government, the President has asked that appropriate studies of the Executive Branch be made.

On March sixteenth the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare at his regular press conference suggested that it would be made to determine how the Federal Government best organize itself to perform the necessary monitoring and related studies of fall-out and radiological health problems.

The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, testifying before the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, on March fourth emphasized that there should be a careful examination of the organizational arrangements of the pertinent Federal agencies in this field.

Therefore, at the request of the President, a study of Federal organization of radiological health activities has been initiated by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

This study is now well under way, and involves the organizational arrangements within the Executive Branch. The Bureau of the Budget which serves as the President's staff on such matters is providing leadership for the study and will be responsible for making recommendations to the President when the study is complete. This study is primarily concerned with the coordination of existing government activities in this field.

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DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

In view of the considerable budgetary difficulties which have been focused recently on the national health care program of the Federal Government, the President's special budgetary proposals of the Executive Branch be made clear.

On March 18th, a member of the Joint Atomic Energy Commission at his regular press conference expressed the Committee's desire to determine how the Federal Government could best be prepared to perform the necessary radiological research and studies of industrial and radiological health problems.

~~Mr. John M. ...~~ ^{Dr. ...} ~~...~~ of the Atomic Energy Commission, testifying before the Joint Atomic Energy Commission on March 18th, emphasized that there should be a close coordination with the appropriate arrangements of the public health and safety program.

Therefore, in the view of the President, a Federal Commission Federal organization of radiological health research should be established by the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget.

This study should be conducted in a way which involves the appropriate arrangements with the Executive Branch of the Bureau of the Budget.

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which serves as the President's public representative, in providing leadership for the study, and will be responsible for making recommendations to the President when the study is completed. The study is primarily concerned with the means of organizing government activities in the field. Other studies are under way dealing with the purely technical aspects of the problem.