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from the 1951-1958 period

1321st AEC Meeting 8-2-56 s 19. Supplemental Announcement on Weapons Developments at Operation REDWING (pp. 179 - 189)

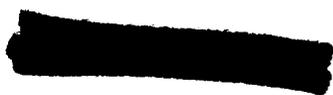
(In approving these minutes, the Commission requested that the transcript of this part of the meeting be used in lieu of this section of the minutes as originally written.)

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COMMISSIONER LIBBY: I have to discuss one point. It seemed to me that our clean bomb announcement ran into some difficulties. Various tempers flared, and so on about it. I just wonder whether some form of new clean bomb announcement might not be wise when it is made in such a way that is clearly not controversial.

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 BY AUTHORITY OF DOE/OC
 R.E. O'Brien 8/27/85
 REVIEWED DATE
 By: P.M. Sweetman
 6/17/86
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For example, it is commonly interpreted, Mr. Murray, that do not go along with the clean bomb statement. But as I understand your point, it was not that, but you had not been properly consulted in preparation.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Both.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: You don't believe there is a clean bomb?

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: That is a ridiculous statement, of course I do. The way you put it out, there are two things that were not consulted. The second was I wouldn't --

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: What I would propose is that we make a statement of fact about it out, to which we can all agree about the fact, so that this questioning of the fact is stopped. I think that this is a matter of information to our people and to the world.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I think it would be a good thing to try.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: I am sorry to say that I don't know any particular mechanism. Another press release might be the way. If one of us were going to make a speech, that might be the way. I just don't know exactly how it should be managed. But I think some time before too long --

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I would not plan to do this before we got back.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I think if it is to be done, it should be done promptly.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: How do we sit down and consult tomorrow?

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: We certainly would not take more than a day to consult on it. We will be here tomorrow.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: This is one of these things on the last hour. I have some time to think about it. I am perfectly willing to consider any statement that Bill or you or anyone else wants to prepare.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: We will draw one and send it to you.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: How about circulating one?

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: How soon do you want to make it?

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Bill's thought was that it ought to be right away.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: What is your thought?

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	
1ST REVIEW DATE: 04/14/95	DELETED
AUTHORITY: OAC 0600 0600	LEGAL
NAME: W. M. Murray	FINANCIAL
2ND REVIEW DATE: 7-20-95	INSURANCE
AUTHORITY: ADA	LABOR
NAME: W. M. Murray	OTHER
	OTHER
	NUMBERS

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CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I think the amount of attention that has been given to it, and the statements that have been made by people who ought to know better that it was ridiculous, that it was misleading, and that it was false ought to be corrected at as early a date as we can do it.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: I would like to have it corrected in a non-controversial fashion, without reference to it, just as a matter of getting the record straight, and making it clear that there is no argument in the Commission on the fact, and just generally make that completely clear. I think the sooner the better. Maybe we could do it if there were draft announcements circulated to us. If we can't agree, we will leave it to September.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Will you be here tomorrow?

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I will be here for a while. I am not moving in a hurry that you have to get it out tomorrow night.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Suppose the rest of us wish to do it?

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Then you go ahead to do it, and I will have the same chance to comment that I was not consulted.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: You will not be able to say you were not consulted.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: You probably will.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I was not consulted properly and given enough time to consider the situation. You bring this thing up at 20 minutes to seven on Thursday night, and we are going to disband tomorrow, and you want to get out a new statement on a clean bomb that is non-controversial.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: How about circulating? Could you draft one? How about you drafting it?

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Yes, that is an idea.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: And circulate it. It is not classified. We can put our scribbles on it.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I would be willing to take a chance to draft something.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: That is fine.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Sure.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I will wait here until you finish it tomorrow.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No, I will not do it tomorrow.

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CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I will do one tomorrow.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: I will not be here tomorrow.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: When will we do it, when you come back?

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: How about circulating it in the mail?

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: It is all right with me. Issuing or not issuing it is all right with me. This was your suggestion, Bill I thought it was a good one. I don't care. The misrepresentation will follow regardless of what we say. I would like to get it out because I think the record does need clarification. We did say that operational factors had something to do with it, which is right, and that was seized upon as the whole secret of this, that we had not done a thing.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Bill suggests that I try to draft one and circulate it next week.

COMMISSIONER VANCE: It didn't fool Bill Lawrence. He got it right. I would like to make this suggestion, which I already made to Dr. Libby. I think if another is coming out on this subject that the best and most effective way to get it out would be for Bill, who is going to California, to go up to Berkeley while he is out in California, and deliver a speech up there to some organization.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: You flatter me.

COMMISSIONER VANCE: And let it be a scientific presentation and not an ordinary public release.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: The trouble is that I don't have an invitation to speak at the moment. I give a speech before the Chemical Society in Berkeley on the 13th of August. I don't know that is a good audience.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I think if we ought to do it at all, it ought to be done promptly.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: Suppose we consider a press release which Mr. Murray will draft and circulate to us next week.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: All right.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I will prepare one and I will circulate it before that.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I thought you were going to let me do it.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I will circulate it before that and you can have the benefit of my opus.

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: Fine.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I didn't say I would buy your draft.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I appreciate that. Neither did I say I will buy yours.

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CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I know you won't. I am quite convinced of it.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Is this all tonight? How is it left?

COMMISSIONER LIBBY: I guess there are going to be two drafts.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I want to find out whether I am on public notice whether a statement is going to be made and when.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: You are on this public notice. I am by law the spokesman for the Commission.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: That is right.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: This happens to be a matter which is in the open. I could go out five minutes from now and make a statement, if I wished to, and be completely in the clear, without consulting anyway. I don't intend to do that. I never have. You had an opportunity to be consulted at the last one. You left the meeting.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I did not have an opportunity.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Let me finish. We sent for you.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: You did not send for me.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: That is a direct lie. We sent for you and neither you nor your messenger returned to the meeting.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: You did not send for me. I had no idea. It was not a Commission meeting.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Mr. McCool, did you hear Mr. Hallinan told to notify Mr. Murray what we were discussing?

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: That last part, what were you discussing?

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Did you hear it or not?

MR. MCCOOL: I turned to Mr. Hallinan and suggested that Mr. Murray should be here for the discussion.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Does that clear up that point?

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Let me finish my statement.

Furthermore, you knew that a statement was to be made by the President on the subject.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Wait a moment. It was read to you in an executive session in my office, and the minutes show it. That is a fact in front of a stack of Bibles.

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COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I had notice that you intended to try to get the President to make a statement.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: That is right.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: You read that statement into the record.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: That is right.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: You then reported back that somebody, Sherman Adams or somebody, had determined the statement should not be made by the President, and that is where it was left.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No indication at all of what was going to happen.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Then you left the meeting.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No. This was two days before.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: At which I reported that it had been decided at the White House that the statement was to be made by me, and the statement was made by me.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I don't want to say as usual, but you are just turning this thing around. I had no notice of it, and you made no attempt to get in touch with me. You have all kinds of opportunities to call me, to clear with me. I had left the building.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: And went home while we were still discussing business. You said you were at home.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: That is right.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: That is a fine way to discharge your duties as a Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: That is fine. Did you ever do that?

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Did Mr. Hallinan let you know?

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No. He didn't know what the subject was.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: Did he ask to get you back?

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No. I was told Monday morning.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I would say that was a dereliction on his part.

COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I don't think it was at all. I still think he is a pretty good man.

CHAIRMAN STRAUSS: I am sure you do. He serves you well.

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