

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 20, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Peter Flanigan

Basically, both Will Kriegsman and Tom Whitehead think that the Teller memorandum is a narrow approach to the clean energy problem. In this I would agree. However, it is valuable in showing the kind of thing that is being proposed by responsible scientists. I believe the administration should capitalize on these enthusiasms to achieve national goals, one of which is certainly a clean energy source for the 1970's and 1980's.

As you undoubtedly know, the Domestic Council has an Energy Subcommittee that is looking at a long-term program to achieve this. David Freeman in my office is my representative and he can bring you up to date on the work. I would hope that within a few weeks the administration could have the glimmer of a program toward a long-term solution to the clean energy problem.

It may turn out that the liquid metal fast breeder reactor will prove to be the most promising concept for providing an abundant supply of reasonably-priced energy in the future. Though I agree with Tom that a program of detailed government prescription and massive government expenditures is not desirable nor appropriate for this administration, I don't know of any alternative. We should certainly look for one. My experts tell me that LMFBR is too large and long-term a project to expect the electric power industry, with regulated profits and no funds for R&D, to undertake.

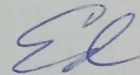
It probably will turn out that we greatly need effort in fossil fuel. Here, too, I suspect that the government will have to help if the work is to be done. Let me make clear that what I say does not necessarily imply federal funding for these efforts. Our office has developed a proposal, copy of which is attached, that would greatly increase the industry funding of these projects.

Dr. David - Ed. The attached is very interesting - Many thanks - Now that you have established such a close rapport with Edward Teller - I'd appreciate it if you would reply to him on his proposal of Aug 24
Thanks
Pete

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My own belief is that the nation's greatest failure has been its inability to find the mechanisms for demonstrating technological concepts that have advanced through the research stage. It is not in basic research that we are failing, but in translating the work of the researchers into usable technology to benefit mankind.

This is a subject that undoubtedly warrants further discussion, but I feel very strongly that in the energy field the missing link in the chain is moving ahead with the demonstration of technological concepts. The federal government must play a leadership role because these efforts are so large and so long-term that the fragmented power industry cannot be expected to do the job itself.



Edward E. David, Jr.

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