

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or as
RF 48128 much thereof as may be necessary, be, and it hereby is,
appropriated to the SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL for
the expenses of its Committee on the Social Implications
of Atomic Energy during the two-year period beginning
December 1, 1948.

SOCIAL
SCIENCE
RESEARCH
COUNCIL -
COMMITTEE
ON ATOMIC
ENERGY

The following were the considerations presented:

Social Sciences

Previous Interest: None.

General Description: During the past six months officers of the Social Science Research Council have been discussing with representatives of the United States Atomic Energy Commission the problem of relating the social sciences in an effective way to developments in the atomic energy field, specifically as well as to the over-all problems created by the impact of major technological changes. As a result of these discussions the Council has voted to establish a Committee on the Social Implications of Atomic Energy. A two-year appropriation is now requested for the purpose of undertaking the preliminary stage of the Committee's work, although the interest of the Council in the atomic energy field will presumably extend over a period of years.

The Committee on the Social Implications of Atomic Energy will be concerned with the problems of adjustment to technological change that must take place as atomic energy is developed and applied. To date very few social scientists have given direct thought to the implications of atomic energy from an economic, psychological or social point of view. The Committee expects to encourage more social scientists to study such problems as the following: labor relations in atomic installations; the disposal of radio-active wastes and community relationships; occupational hazards and the insurance of employees; the contractual pattern between the Commission and industries; the relationships between the civil and military authorities concerned with atomic energy; the relationships between the Atomic Energy Commission and the legislature. Another responsibility of the Committee will be the identification of matters of long-range significance which can and should be the subjects of careful research.

The Committee's work will be carried on in cooperation with the National Research Council and natural scientists as well as social scientists will be included in its membership.

SOCIAL
SCIENCE
RESEARCH
COUNCIL -
COMMITTEE
ON ATOMIC
ENERGY
(Continued)

Finances: The \$20,000 requested will cover staff services, both professional and secretarial, committee expenses such as travel and costs of meetings, mimeographing, postage, printing, and miscellaneous operational costs over a period of approximately one year. The Council suggests, however, that the fund be made available over two years so as to guard against unforeseeable delays in getting the work started.

Future Implications: Further support will probably be requested.

Comment: This venture aims to anticipate the problems and changes in social life which atomic developments will bring, or, at least, to study them promptly as they appear. Such studies should aid public understanding and social adjustment.
