

the file

IN CONFIDENCE

Mr. R. M. Fishenden
Scientific Administration
Building 329

Working Party on Future R.G. Policy

1. Mr. Willson's letter to Division Heads

I am not submitting any proposals for N.I.R.N.S. programmes on a frozen complement, since the N.I.R.N.S. staff demands on the R.G. have been separately treated. However, it may be worthwhile to remark that the Institute will follow the same policy as the Authority in contracting out work where possible. Moreover, I confirm that any Institute needs beyond an agreed fixed A.E.A. staff complement will be met by recruiting Institute staff who will be off the R.G. "management load".

2. General suggestions

I should like to make a few general and provocative, though not original, suggestions for contracting out certain operations at A.E.R.E. The object would be to reduce the payroll without affecting the programme. Some may be farmed out already, some will be impracticable. Some are alternatives to others:

- Canteens and hostel catering
- Hostel management
- Housing management
- Housing repairs and maintenance
- Grounds
- Office cleaning (where permissible on security grounds)
- Non-radioactive laboratory cleaning in unclassified areas
- Vehicle maintenance, repairs, and washing
- Substitute contract hire (with drivers) for Authority cars (and drivers)
- Laundry services except for clothing contaminated with radio-activity
- Window cleaning
- Maintenance of fabric and/or services of ordinary buildings
- Central manufacturing services (not development shop or close-support shops).
- Central design office services (not local project design services)
- Fire service (to County)
- Reproduction of unclassified documents
- Non-active rubbish disposal

3. Suggestions based on DHC (59) 11

3.1 Basic Research

The summary in DHC (59) 11 shows 405 out of 1906 professional staff, i.e. 21%, on basic research. However, $81\frac{1}{2}$ of these are on the 7 GeV project and $25\frac{3}{4}$ on the P.L.A. These 107 professionals are providing a service to N.I.R.N.S. on whose programme they are working. The proportion of professionals working on the R.G. programme is therefore only 15.6%. This proportion should not be reduced; preferably, if basic technology is included as well as basic science, it should be increased.

Mr. R. M. Fishenden

Possibilities for stopping or farming out work are:

Cyclotron (a) transfer to N.I.R.N.S., reducing the R.G. staff to nuclear physicists using this and other N.I.R.N.S. machines.

or (b) convert to medium energy high intensity machine, to replace the proposed "chemists" cyclotron"

Cyclotron conversion

Transfer to N.I.R.N.S.

Beta spectrometer

Close down (already decided)

Extensive air showers

Close down (already decided)

Mass spectrometer research and development

Contract out to industry

High energy machine development

Transfer to N.I.R.N.S.

Cockcroft Walton set

Close down

N.B. Transfers to N.I.R.N.S. could not be effective in reducing R.G. "management load" for about 18 months (i.e. until N.I.R.N.S. could directly employ large numbers of staff).

The transfers are suggested on the assumption that room would be found in the R.G. programme for other basic physics research (e.g. thermoelectric effect, plasma physics) and for strengthening effort on, for example, electronics development for nuclear research.

I do not feel competent to judge basic research outside physics on the meagre information given in DHG (59) 11

3.2 Production projects

Contract out where possible the following:

Isotope production on R.G. sites (e.g. E.M. separator, routine irradiations in reactors, routine chemical separation)

Industrial applications of isotopes - to industry's sites on contract.

3.3 Reactors

Close down Gleep

Mr. R. M. Fishenden

3.4 Development and testing

I do not know how much semi-routine development and testing now goes on at Harwell (e.g. of fuel elements, cans, etc., calibration of sources and health monitors etc., routine examination of ores etc.). I make the general point that this work, if it exists, does not help to preserve the research atmosphere of the group and, where possible should be contracted out to industry.

3.5 General Services

These would be much affected by the general suggestions under 2 above. However, consideration might be given to transferring certain central administrative services to London. Much more was done in London during the M.O.S. days, and not too badly.

T. G. Pickavance

Rutherford High Energy Laboratory,
Building 412.10
31st March, 1959