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Dear Mr. [Name],

We are pleased to inform you that your request for information regarding the United States Atomic Energy Commission has been received and is currently being processed. Our team is working diligently to ensure that you receive the necessary details in a timely manner.

The United States Atomic Energy Commission is a federal agency responsible for the development and regulation of nuclear energy in the United States. It was established in 1946 and continues to play a significant role in advancing and ensuring the safety of nuclear research and development.

If you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are committed to providing you with the best possible service.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Title]
United States Atomic Energy Commission

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Special for
UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

November 3, 1949

SENATOR JOHNSON CHAIRS APPELLATE ATOMIC HOUSING LAW

Court of Current Issues at 8:00 P.M. over WABD-TV (N.Y.)
and Dumont Television Network:

Subject: "Is There Too Much Secrecy in Our Atomic Program?"

Witnesses: Dr. Hugh C. Wolfe, professor of physics at Cooper Union and chairman of the Federation of American Scientists; Mr. Harrison S. Brown, associate professor at the Institute of Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago; Mr. Michael Anuile, syndicated writer on atomic subjects; Mr. Edward C. Conroy, former special agent in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York City; Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Democrat of Colorado and member of the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy; Colonel William A. Considine, former chief of intelligence and security at the Manhattan District Atomic Program.

THE TV SHOT SHOWS A COURTROOM SCENE. SENATOR JOHNSON STANDS IN HIS WITNESS CHAIR, FACING THE VICINITY OF THE NEW YORK CITY COURT. CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IS PAID TO THE COURTROOM, THE COURTROOM IS IN THE LEFT BACKGROUND. DURING THE DIRECT EXAMINATION, MR. AMERIE TAKES MR. CONSIDINE'S PLACE. THE COURTROOM ITSELF IS NOT SHOWN. THE SMOKING ROOM IS SHOWN ON THE LEFT.

[Further details and information]

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
[Title]
United States Atomic Energy Commission
JUDGE: Francis O. Wells, Attorney.

CLERK: "Edwin C. Johnson to the witness stand, please."

COUNSEL: "Senator Johnson, what are your qualifications as a witness here this evening on this subject?"

JOHNSON: "Well, I've been a member of the Committee on Congress ever since--about twenty--more than the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We created a committee which has had continuous membership on that committee. In addition to that, perhaps I might say that, I've been a Colorado Senator for fourteen years. In addition to that, in Colorado, we have the largest deposits of uranium to be found anywhere in the United States. And so I've been somewhat familiar with uranium at least for a long time."

COUNSEL: "You're not a scientist, Senator?"

JOHNSON: "No, sir, I'm not a scientist, but I do know a lot about atomic energy science just the same."

COUNSEL: "You, from your Committee undertaking, you know a great deal about the security we have in the United States, don't you?"

JOHNSON: "I hope I do, yes, sir."

COUNSEL: "Do you think that security is too strict?"

JOHNSON: "No, sir. Far from it. I think, as a matter of fact, that the security has been slightly too strict rather than too strict."

COUNSEL: "Recently, or mean since the war or also including the wartime period?"

JOHNSON: "Yes, I think--I think during the war. As a matter of fact, I heard a witness say a moment ago that we helped Russian scientists about 30 days. A Norwegian scientist not very long ago made the statement that we have helped the Russian Scientists in the production and creation of atomic bombs by fully ten years and I haven't heard anyone dispute that until tonight and I think that we have helped them, because we gave them very definite information on how to make a bomb and the simple method most effective way to make a bomb which--and we tried out four different methods of making a bomb and all of them succeeded, but one of those methods was no superior to all the others in simplicity and effectiveness and we told the Russians and we told them the world that fast. Of course, they didn't have to make the experiments that we had to make to find out by elimination which method was the best effective and which was the one that they should follow."

COUNSEL: "Senator, I don't think you need to resort to any secret information to answer this question. What do you think of
JOHN: "Well, Russian security is airtight. Very little leaks from there. As a matter of fact, we haven't been able to get much through, and we have some of the greatest experts in the world who'd like to know something. Not even a whisper comes through the iron curtain, not a whisper."

COrsor: "And yet, isn't it a bit marvelous that the Russians have gotten an atomic bomb by 1949, with all this terrible security by which we can find nothing at all?"

JOHN: "It's not surprising at all that the Russians have the bomb--not the bomb in 1949. I'm not surprised by the prediction that was made by Dr. Brown. The Russians have been otherwise with all the information that we gave them, with the source material, with the pitchblende in Czechoslovakia we made available to them by not taking it over even though we could have worked in and taken it. Never given the Russians every help there is to make a bomb.

CORSOR: "Dr. Brown in his book, Senator, states that we have to fear a bomb being dropped on the United States for which there is no defense other than to smash out the carrier or a bomb being carried into the United States and left here to explode. Do you think the latter is possible?"

JOHN: "Well, it could be brought in. It would take a truck to carry a bomb. Some folks say that you can bring it in in a suitcase. I say it would take more than a suitcases to bring in a bomb. But it could be done. The natural way is to drop it from an airplane or to shoot it into the country from a submarine."

CORSOR: "Thank you very much, Senator. You may cross-examine, Mr. Atrois."

AHELD: "Senator, I'd like to get just an idea of how extensive your feeling about secrecy is. How do we know that Russia has made an atomic bomb? We were keeping things secret to keep Russia from getting the bomb?"

JOHN: "Unfortunately, we were not."

AHELD: "Could you divulge on that a little, Senator?"

JOHN: "Yes, we--just as I said before, we told them a great deal that they needed to know in order to construct a bomb—and vital information and vital scientific information has said that we gave them a two years' jump on the construction of the bomb."

AHELD: "So our own scientists say, in an effort to keep ahead or to get ahead perhaps, of the Russians, we should exchange
new information, and the Russians do have the bomb. Can't you imagine that we ought always or usually a little of the secrecy now that the whole cat is out of the bag?

JUDD: "No, I'm not. In a bomb you're dealing with a weapon, a tremendous weapon, the most appalling weapon that has ever been created by man and I don't believe that you can--that you can be strict enough with that sort of thing, because the lives of millions hang in the balance and because the scientists all have a yen, like some old fisherman, to tell everything that they know."

JOHNSON: "Senator, let's get down to a specific question."

ANDERSON: "Senator, let's get down to a specific question."

JUDD: "To make any atomic power plant in the future, you have to have a chain reacting pile and you also have to have a chain reacting pile in order to make bomb material. So we know that Russia has...

ANDERSON: "You don't have to have a pile to make the kind of bomb that was dropped at Hiroshima. You have to have a pile to make the kind of bomb that was dropped at Nagasaki."

JUDD: "I'm not sure I knew that, Senator--perhaps we'd better get away from that subject, of your theory that you could make one bomb with other methods and to make a great supply of bombs that you do have to have a chain reaction pile and that, well, let's say, on occasion...

JOHNSON: "That's the best way to make it with--with a pile, yes, that's the best way to make it--a graphite pile.

ANDERSON: "What I'm getting at is we can produce much more how to make an atomic pile: we are doing so...

JOHNSON: "We told them how we told them exactly how to do it.

ANDERSON: "Since we've told them, why should we worry about keeping from telling them about an atomic pile, why shouldn't we get ahead with our atomic pile program?"

JUDD: "I'm glad you asked me that question, because here's the thing that is top secret. Our scientists from the time that the bomb was detonated in Hiroshima and Nagasaki have been trying to make that known as a superbomb. They've been devoting their time to two billion dollars to make a superbomb, and the others, to find some way of deterring a bomb before the fellow that wants to use it, and we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--we--w
I object, your honor. We asked the question. I think the witness is entitled to answer it in full.

Senator, have you finished answering the question?

I have some other secrets I'd like to ask him about.

You're going to ask the question, Mr. Smythe.

This thing we see in the Sunday papers that shows in service, experiment, according to a report from London, an atomic cloud and radioactive poison gas. The report gives us a terrible glimpse of the future if it is true. The report says that there is a definite possibility of making such a radioactive poison gas. The citizens of New York do not know what in the world to do to protect themselves against such an attack if it should come. Do you have any way—are you permitted to say whether that is true or not, that such an atomic cloud is possible?

I don't think I should say anything about that atomic cloud.

I object to that, your honor, because of national security.

Objection sustained on that question.

That's a top military secret.

You may proceed on something that has a bearing on this particular issue perhaps without answering upon secret, confidential matters within the purview of the Senator.

Can you give us an idea at what time citizens might be told the facts they need to know for civil defense against the next war?
Senator: "Well, there's been a great deal of complaint in our joint committee because the civilians have not been fully informed as to how to protect themselves. I think it should be the duty of Congress to see that there is nothing done which could be the cause of any more information. I don't think that the military authorities would be desirable in this capacity, for it is of no service to get information unless the public understands it and is able to act on it.

President: "That is all, Senator."