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A PROPOSAL
by
Leo Szilard

May 28, 1963

I have given some thought to the problem raised by my Memo of May 27th, and the best solution with which I was able to come up, so far, is as follows:

There would be formed a group of perhaps twelve to fifteen distinguished citizens who are knowledgeable and seriously concerned about the trend of current events. This group would meet once a week and on each such occasion the group would have one individual, chosen from a list of about twenty, from within the Administration, as its guest. The task of the "guest" would be to try to look into the future and to come up with a set of desirable objectives which he thinks might, with luck, be attainable by the end of President Kennedy's second term. The "guest" could say how, what he would like to see done on a short-term basis, would fit in with this set of objectives and he could elaborate on one particular objective which is closest to his own field of interest.

In the ensuing discussion, the set of objectives presented by the "guest" would be scrutinized by the group; the group would presumably discuss whether these objectives are compatible with each other and whether - to the extent as these objectives may involve other nations - they are likely to become negotiable in the predictable future. The discussion which would follow the presentation of the prepared statement would be off the record. Members of the group may however submit their observations in writing within two weeks to the secretary of the group. These observations would be made available to the "guest", who may within two weeks submit his answers in writing.

The prepared statement of the "guest", the observations submitted by members of the group, and the answers of the "guest" would be transmitted to the President. In addition, they would also be made available to such individuals within the Administration as are designated by the "guest".

In this fashion, those individuals within the Administration who are invited to appear before the group would have an opportunity to communicate their views to the President, without having to ask for the privilege of seeing the President.

May 27, 1963

No classified material would be communicated to the group. Its members would be free to make use of any thoughts expressed in these deliberations but not to attribute any particular view to any particular individual or to discuss such views in circumstances in which they could be traced to a particular individual who had participated in the deliberations of the group.

I am inclined to believe that it would be possible to secure distinguished and knowledgeable persons as members of the group and to arrange for the appearance of distinguished individuals from within the Administration before the group, provided this made sense to the President, and provided that the President made it clear that he would want to receive a copy of the prepared papers that are presented together with the "observations" and "answers".

The group would have to be privately sponsored and it could be set up by a small committee formed ad hoc for the purpose. Before deciding on whom to include in the group, this committee would presumably want to consult with the White House. One of the questions to be decided would be whether the group ought to include perhaps seven to ten members of the Senate who are friendly to the Administration or whether there ought to be no Senators included in the group.

A PROPOSAL

May 31, 1963

by

Leo Szilard

I have given some thought to the problem raised by my Memo of May 28th, and the best solution with which I was able to come up, so far, is as follows:

There would be formed a group of perhaps twelve to fifteen distinguished citizens who are knowledgeable and seriously concerned about the trend of current events. This group would meet once a week and on each such occasion the group would have one individual, chosen from a list of about twenty from within the Administration, as its guest. The task of the "guest" would be to try to look into the future and to come up with a set of desirable objectives which he thinks might, with luck, be attainable by the end of President Kennedy's second term. The "guest" could say how, what he would like to see done on a short-term basis, would fit in with this set of objectives and he could elaborate on one particular objective which is closest to his own field of interest.

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May 31, 1963

In this fashion, those individuals within the Administration who are invited to appear before the group, would have an opportunity to communicate their views to the President, without having to ask for the privilege of seeing the President.

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A PROPOSAL
by
Leo Szilard

June 6, 1963

Regarding my Memo of May 28th, the best solution with which I was able to come up, so far, is as follows:

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June 6, 1963

In this fashion, those individuals within the Administration who are invited to appear before the group, would have an opportunity to communicate their views to the President, without having to ask for the privilege of seeing the President.

No classified material would be communicated to the group. Its members would be free to make use of any thoughts expressed in these deliberations, but not to attribute any particular view to any particular individual or to discuss such views in circumstances in which they could be traced to a particular individual who had participated in the deliberations of the group.

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