

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Phil Handler

NOV 17 1977

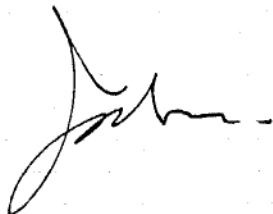
How scientists can learn about policy

The industrial input mentioned here certainly has merit.

I wonder, though, if there is enough visibility and structure to a mechanism for 'policy-research-leaves' for junior faculty at the NAS. You might have to seek acquiescence to some more flexibility in tenure-eligibility arrangements for such people. Were you to get a few leading institutions to go along, in acknowledging the value and importance of a tour like this, it might get the ball rolling. And wouldn't, say, the Guggenheim Foundation be perfectly happy to sponsor fellowships (at par with other objectives) to this end.

These points are, I suspect, all granted and obvious: but they could well be brought out more explicitly. I should think the Academy has more than enough prestige to make it go.

Sincerely,



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Letter to Member

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Of General Academy Interest

Councils of NAS and NAE in Joint Session

On August 8 the Councils of the National Academy of Sciences and of the National Academy of Engineering convened in joint meeting at Woods Hole. This was the second such meeting, the last being in 1973. Philip Handler commented on the nature of the NAS charter and its meaning. Particular attention was given to the fact that the Academy is reimbursed for its expenses, but does not compensate for their services the talented people conducting the studies, a practice that begins to present difficulties in the present era of complex studies that demand increasing amounts of time from the participants. Courtland Perkins compared the election procedures of the two Academies, and discussed the eventual size of both, and their overlapping memberships. At the moment, NAE, with 764 members, expects to increase to 1,000. Perkins also emphasized the desire of the NAE to increase its public visibility, accomplishment of which will depend considerably upon the availability of independent resources. He reported that the NAE is actively seeking funds to create an endowment that would enable NAE to initiate studies appropriate to NAE interests and which might later be pursued through the NRC.

Given the complexity and variety of the studies conducted by the NRC in the present era, there is a need for a more rapidly responsive system to identify and attract competent program staff. Handler noted that about two-thirds of the program staff is hired solely for the duration of a specific study, usually about two years.

It was suggested that a network of industrial contacts might be organized to participate in a program whereby qualified individuals employed in industry would be invited to spend one or two years at the Academy, on leave from their industrial positions, thereby presumably benefiting the individual, his company, and the NRC. The two Councils agreed to make a small study of the feasibility of establishing such a system.