REPOSITORY LOS ALAMOS NAT LAB
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A. C. Graves

April 27, 1959

T. L. Shipman, M.D.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF RAD-SAFE RESPONSIBILITY AT EPG

We have now had the opportunity to see the reply dated 21 April from Jim Reeves to you and also the letter from Duane Sewell to Jim Reeves dated April 22. It would be my assumption that there have probably been replies to Reeves from Sandia, EG&G and AFSWP, although I have not seen any of these as yet.

I have discussed the material which we have with Bill Kennedy and Gordon Jacks. We feel that there is very little which can be added to my former memo on this subject. In essence the whole thing boils down to this: Reeves is of the opinion that H&N can handle the rad-safe work during operation periods more economically than it has been done in the past using mostly military personnel. We simply do not believe this is true if the work is to be carried on in an effective manner. In addition, Jim is of the opinion that he can staff an H&N rad-safe organization with competent and qualified personnel. This we question very seriously and simply do not believe that it can be done.

If there were any real claims made by individuals qualified to pass judgment that rad-safe policies and procedures in the past had failed to provide the necessary protection or to maintain the necessary records, I would agree that a change in administration might be considered. As it is, I can see no sense at all in swapping at this stage of the game from a horse who has shown no sign of tiring to another one of completely unknown endurance and who is not even broken. He might in time prove to be adequate, but the rider would certainly suffer in the early stages and quite easily be thrown with serious injuries.

I suspect that Duane Sewell's letter was written after he saw your earlier reply, but I feel sure that his statements represent his sincere opinion and that of Bill Nolan. Frankly I hope Jim Reeves will let the matter drop before it becomes necessary to forget diplomacy and speak even more bluntly. Do you feel it might be advisable to bring DEM into the picture at the present time? If the matter were brought to their attention, I feel sure it would be referred to Gordon Dunning, and I confess that I have found his reactions a little unpredictable.

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ORIGINAL SIGNED BY THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.

T. L. SHIPMAN, M.D.
Health Division Leader

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