



Gen. Bragdon noted particularly the attractiveness of a forest program.

Sec. Weeks noted that planned expansion for 1958 was expected to remain higher than in 1955, although somewhat below 1956 and 1957. The President commented ironically on expectations of peak performance at all times.

Agricultural Legislation - Sec. Benson expressed his disappointment with the Senate action freezing price supports and the lack of action on most of the items recommended by the Administration. He thought there was some possibility that the House would defeat the freeze bill which he regarded as a political effort to draw a veto from the President particularly since it runs contrary to every known fact.

Residual Oil Imports - Director Gray reported the existence of continuing pressures for a certification by ODM that exports of residual fuel oils would endanger the national security. He stated that his agency had kept the matter under constant review with the Committee on Energy Resources and concluded during the past week that such a certification could not be justified. He reported a move in Congress to force the Secretary of Commerce to impose a formula for limiting such imports.

The President ascertained from Sec. Weeks that the Subcommittee on Oil Imports would soon complete its study.

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The President concluded the regular meeting by inviting Cabinet members to stay on for a briefing similar to the one given recently at NSC on a Civilian Space Program.

Civilian Space Program - Dr. Killian, assisted by Dr. Purcell and Dr. Yorke, presented in this briefing much of the material in the paper subsequently released, "Introduction to Outer Space". Additionally, it was indicated that the category "early" meant perhaps 2 years, "later" meant 2 to 5 years, and "still later" meant 5 to 15 years. This timing was based on the availability of various missiles under development which would provide the thrust needed for pay loads of various weights and types. The costs of a sample space program were outlined, involving annual expenditures ranging from \$300 million in FY 1959 to \$625 million in FY 1965. By cutting the number of experimental flights in half, many of the projects could be accomplished for about \$1-1/2 billion. Dr. Killian also indicated that the Science Advisory Committee, working with the President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization and the Bureau of the Budget, had recommended to the President the use of the NACA as the nucleus for a civilian space agency.

Copies to:

- Mrs. Whitman (2) ✓
- Mr. Rabb
- Mr. Minnich

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