GENERAL SCIENCE

Relax McCarran Provisions

Attempt will be made when Congress reconvenes to remove some of the obstacles and difficulties preventing visits of foreign scientists.

➤ AN ATTEMPT will be made during the next session of Congress to relax some of the more stringent provisions of the nation's laws regulating visits to this country by foreigners.

Laying the groundwork for this attempt is the President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization, which is expected to suggest changes in the McCarran Immigration and Nationality Act passed this year over the President's veto.

Scientists, particularly, are presenting a strong case to the commission for relaxation of present visa laws and regulations. They claim that the difficulties experienced by foreign scientists in getting permission to attend scientific meetings or to accept teaching positions in this country are actually hampering the nation's defense and interfering with its security.

The commission, headed by Philip B. Perlman, former Solicitor General, will not make its report until Jan. 1 at the earliest. Its recommendations are expected to be in line with the President's views, expressed in his veto message, that the McCarran Act is undemocratic.

Scientists are giving evidence before the commission at its hearings throughout the country. When the commission comes to Washington next week, the American Association for the Advancement of Science will offer testimony, urging relaxation of the present law and regulations. In addition, the National Science Foundation, a government body set up to protect the nation's interest in fundamental science, will be heard.

Illustrating the gravity with which scientists view the present restrictions, the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (Oct.) devoted an entire issue to the "American Visa Policy and Foreign Scientists." The situation is viewed as a "scandal" that is tearing down the reputation of the United States for democracy and fair play abroad.

Opinions from non-Communist newspapers in Europe liken the long and searching questionnaire to which applicants for visas are subjected to the kind of methods the Soviets use. This strengthens the hands of pro-Communists, the Bulletin states, and increases the ranks of those Europeans who are "neutralists" as between the U. S. and Russia.

It is estimated that almost 200 distinguished European scientists, who at one time or another have been invited by Americans to visit this country, have had visa trouble. In most cases, the trouble takes the form of delays which last until after the date on which the visit would be practicable. Case histories of 26 who were unable to visit this country because of trouble in securing their visas from American consulates are recounted.

The present law makes it necessary for the consuls to conduct exhaustive investigations into the past lives of persons wishing to visit this country. However, no additional personnel was authorized by Congress to conduct these investigations. This, plus the inadequate training of those who now conduct the investigations, is one cause for the delay.

Another cause, the Bulletin says, is the fear of American officials abroad of incurring the wrath of some of the more extreme members of Congress. They cannot get into trouble if they refuse a visa, it is pointed out, but they might if one were granted.

The President has had no success in persuading Congress of his opinion that present visa and immigration regulations are harmful to this nation's best interests. The commission's report will have to be acted on by both the next President and the new Congress. Whether its recommendations are accepted, of course, depends in large part on the outcome of the election.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1952

AERONAUTICS

Canadian Turbojets Now Used in Sabres

➤ CANADIAN-BUILT AMERICAN Sabres of the future will be powered by a Canadian-designed-and-built turbojet engine.

With this engine, it is claimed, the plane will be faster and more formidable than the all-American Sabre, and superior to the Russian MIG jet fighters now in use by the Communists in Korea.

Canadian authorities state the combination will link the world's fastest airframe with one of the world's most powerful engines. The Sabre, known as the F-86 and now in service in Korea, is a product of North American, Inc., and is the first American fighter plane to be built with swept-back wings. It made its initial flight in October, 1947, but since then several new versions have appeared.

A Sabre F-86A, complete with armament and normal combat equipment, established an official speed record of slightly less than 671 miles an hour. This plane was powered by a General Electric J-47 engine. Some models have been equipped with Allison engines and some with Pratt and Whitney turbojets. Some are equipped with afterburners.

Both Canada and Australia have been licensed by North American to produce Sabres for their air forces. The Canadian Sabre is built by Canadair, Limited, and its first product made its initial flight in 1950. The engine now to be used is a product of A. V. Roe Canada, Ltd., whose engineers designed it. The engine is known as the Avro Canada Orenda turbojet.

As a contribution to the military defense forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Canada is committed to send a 12-squadron air division to Europe. The first three of these squadrons equipped with Canadair-built Sabres are now based in the United Kingdom with three additional now ready to join them. Later squadrons will have Sabres with Orenda engines.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1952

GENERAL SCIENCE

Giving Atomic Data to NATO Is Lengthy Process

➤ THERE WILL be a long road to travel before the NATO nations can be given any information about atomic weapons, as recently suggested by Gen. Omar Bradley and Gen. J. Lawton Collins.

First the Defense Department, the State Department and the Atomic Energy Commission must agree as to just what kind of information will be made available to our allies. This is an extremely complex matter, not even suggested by the term used by Gen. Collins: "capabilities of atomic weapons."

Where the line is drawn between a description of a bomb's capabilities and how it is made will be a hard thing to decide. Knowledge of the size of an atomic shell and of what damage it can do can lead to inferences as to how it is made and what goes into it.

Staff work at the lower echelons in the three government offices involved has not even begun, it was learned. AEC officials have not yet been formally approached by the Defense Department, although some informal talking and thinking had gone on within both agencies even before the two generals spoke out.

Once it is decided just how the law should be changed, these suggestions must be presented to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy. The consensus of opinion on Capitol Hill seems to be that, after much scrutiny to see that we are not "giving away too much," the Congress will accept the changes in the law. However, this cannot be until several months, at least, after Congress convenes in January.

One factor that will influence the decision is the recent British success in creating an atomic explosion. The British refused to share information with Americans about this explosion because their scientists and military leaders have been cut off from information about the American atomic program. Now there is more of a tendency to share information on a *quid pro quo* basis.

Science News Letter, October 25, 1952

Within 24 hours, the *temperature* has risen from 26 degrees to 126 degrees Fahrenheit in the Salah Oasis of the Sahara.