

Serial: 841

2 June 53

The Honorable

The Secretary of Commerce

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Director of your Institute for Numerical Analysis has agreed to conduct for me, during this coming summer, a symposium of mathematicians to study certain problems having an important bearing on my mission. Lacking proper answers to these problems, I will be handicapped in fulfilling that mission. The plan was to employ approximately fifteen scientists on temporary, excepted appointments for two months, and to use a few others obtained by other arrangements. Funds for this purpose have been committed to the Office of Naval Research, for transfer to the Bureau of Standards.

The recent Presidential Directive aiming toward a reduction in the number of Government employees has been interpreted in some quarters as constituting a bar to the holding of the symposium and this has raised questions causing difficulties in planning for the symposium. I understand that commitments had been made some months ago to a number of scientists, for summer appointments to the symposium. If any doubt as to the holding of the symposium this summer were to be expressed to the potential participants, many of the more desirable ones will obviously be inclined to make other plans without delay. Therefore, it is important that the doubt be removed as soon as possible.

In my opinion the symposium as planned is well within the spirit of the Presidential Directive. It intends to use about fifteen scientists part time to answer basic questions which might otherwise require the full-time services of three or four mathematics specialists on permanent appointment. Moreover, had I contracted directly with a university for the conduct of this symposium no such question would have arisen.

If you find that holding the symposium as outlined above is not excluded by the Presidential Directive, and will advise me accordingly, I will be in a position to proceed with making firm arrangements therefor with the Office of Naval Research and the Director of the Institute for Numerical Analysis. I feel that the success of the summer program at the Institute for Numerical Analysis would be assured if the planning can be completed without delay.

Your assistance and prompt action will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

RALPH J. CANINE  
Major General, US Army  
Director

Ltr to the Secretary of Commerce

Serial:

CG: AG  
G/S  
S/ASST  
E/D (Dr. Campaigne)

M/R: We are requesting an interpretation of the Presidential Directive, aiming toward reduction of Government employess, in regard to hiring participants for SCAMP this summer.

W. F. Friedman/S/ASST/60193/27 Feb 53 - eby