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FAMILY COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Thirty-Fifth Meeting  
March 24, 1951

ADWD-252

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A. Attendance.

The thirty-fifth meeting of the Family Committee was held Saturday, March 24th, 1951 at 1:15 PM in Room B-117. Those present were:

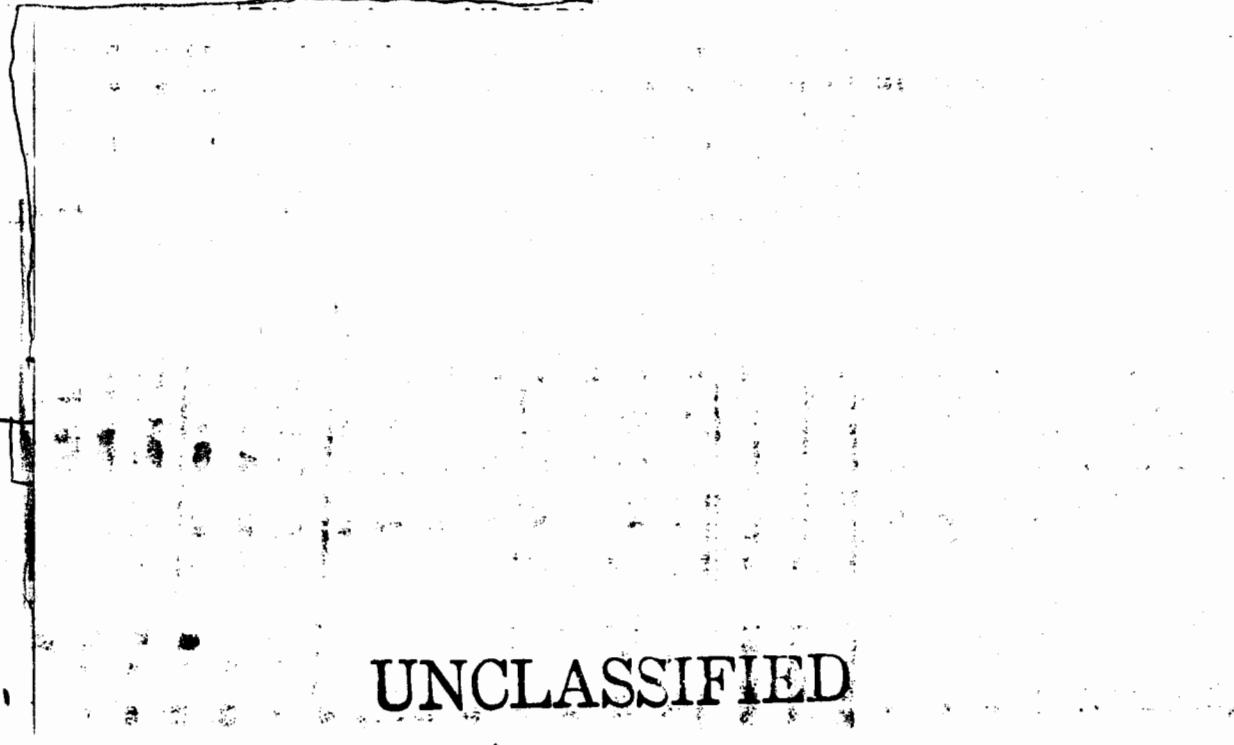
- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| J. C. Clark    | D. P. MacDougall    |
| F. de Hoffmann | J. C. Mark          |
| D. K. Froman   | M. Rosenbluth       |
| R. W. Goranson | R. F. Taschek       |
| M. G. Holloway | E. Teller, Chairman |
| E. R. Jette    | J. L. Tuck          |

B. Minutes of Thirty-Fourth Meeting.

The Committee unanimously adopted the minutes of the thirty-fourth meeting as reported in ADWD-3-13.

C. Boosted Weapons.

Rosenbluth reported on further calculations since the report given at the thirty-third meeting.



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The highball type boosted weapon has received further attention. Very rough calculations have been completed by Rosenbluth.

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(This is an optimistic assumption, now being looked into more thoroughly.)

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(Initiation has not been looked into in detail --a Tom initiator was assumed.)

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The use of the boosting principle for such a weapon should at least be explored.

The Committee felt encouraged by the above statements on the possibilities concerning boosted weapons. While it is clear that this effort would require serious attention of many people, it is believed that on the whole a rather small fraction of the Laboratory effort would have to be devoted to it in order to come up with useful results. Thus, it would not seem to be extremely hard to carry an added booster program. Extensive booster calculations have already been completed and would form a pattern on which to base further calculations. It is not believed that

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booster calculations are likely to act as a detriment to the completion of calculations on the super. Rather the whole thermonuclear field will be stimulated by work on boosted weapons. In view of this, the Committee unanimously recommended the following:

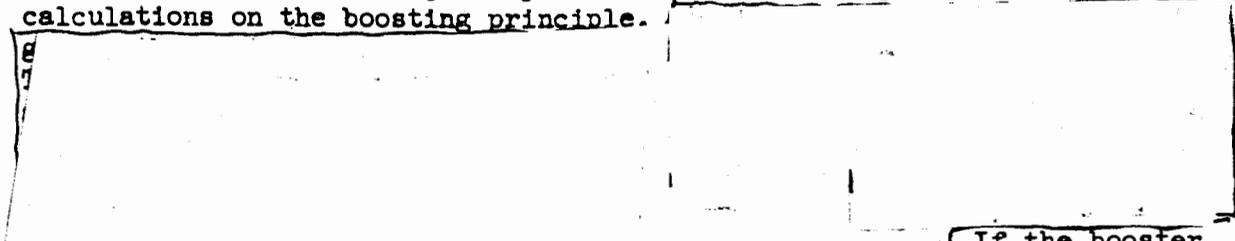
- (1) Boosted weapons including highball type weapons should receive very serious attention of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. It should be understood that this work is not to interfere with other important developments to which the Laboratory is already committed.
- (2) Early tests of the boosting principle are highly desirable. It is the view of the Committee that in the future these tests should be carried out at Tonopah whenever possible but that thinking about such tests should not necessarily be restricted by the framework of Tonopah.

D. Booster at Eniwetok.

On the insistence of Holloway, the Committee returned to the statement made at the thirty-third meeting:

"However, it wishes to emphasize that if calculations during the next few weeks should show great promise, it might still wish to make a positive recommendation to shoot the booster at Greenhouse in order to speed weapon applications of the boosting principle."

It was noted that shooting the present booster would provide a test of calculations on the boosting principle.



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If the booster is shot, it is conceivable that one will not have enough confidence to go to a weapon directly and one will thus end up with 3 tests instead of 2. Arguments in favor of shooting the booster now run as follows: The booster is ready now and can be shot at Eniwetok. Its yield is large enough so as to make it inconvenient to test at Tonopah.

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Hence shooting a boosted weapon at Tonopah in the near future is not at all certain. It is advantageous to cut the time scale on boosted weapons if one thinks of early weapon application.

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he believed this was not so.

Teller replied that

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The question was answered in the affirmative by a majority vote as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstaining</u>
MacDougall	Jette	Taschek
Holloway	Clark	
Mark	Froman	
Teller		

E.

[Redacted]

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Jette reported that the rhodium problem still offers considerable difficulty.

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Jette noted that such problems should be continued in CMR in any case because of the likelihood that such work would pay off in connection with future thermonuclear tests such as those involving boosted weapons.

CMR does not contemplate that the [Redacted] will give rise to difficulties at Eniwetok.

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*Fredric de Hoffmann*

Executive Secretary.

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