

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 23, 1951

LI 5-6700 EXT. 53201-  
53176POLICY GROUP TO UTILIZE SCIENTIFIC TALENTS  
ESTABLISHED BY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Establishment of a policy group within the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense. ~~was~~ announced today by Walter C. Whitman, the new chairman of the board.

This group will work closely with Chairman Whitman in formulating and executing policy, with special emphasis on utilizing the talents of the many scientists and engineers from industry and the universities who stand ready to assist the Board in its work.

The internal policy group will include Dr. James A. Perkins as Deputy Chairman, Dr. Robert C. Gunness and Edwin A. Speakman as Vice Chairmen, Dr. S. Douglas Cornell as Director of Planning, and the three full-time military secretaries of the Board, Major General James F. Phillips of the Air Force, Brig. General Robert W. Crichlow of the Army, and Captain Steadman Teller of the Navy.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dr. James A. Perkins, the new Deputy Chairman, received his B.A. degree from Swarthmore College in 1934. He did his graduate work at Princeton University where he received his Ph.D. in 1937.

From 1937 to 1941 Dr. Perkins was Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Assistant Director, School of Public and International Affairs, at Princeton University. In 1941 he joined the Office of Price Administration in Washington, D.C. as Director of the Paper Division. In 1943 he became Assistant to the Administrator of the Foreign Economic Administration. In 1945 he left the Government to take the position of Vice President of Swarthmore College, a position he held until 1950 when he became Executive Associate of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Dr. Perkins is acquainted with the Research and Development Board, having served as a consultant to the Chairman, and is now on leave from the Carnegie Corporation for his present assignment to the Board. He and his wife, Mrs. Jean Perkins, with their three children, Barbara, 10; Joan, 8; and John, 6, make their home in Princeton, New Jersey.

Dr. Robert C. Gunness, who becomes a Vice Chairman, received his B.S. degree in Chemistry in 1932 at Massachusetts State College. He undertook graduate study in Chemical Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, receiving the M.S. degree in 1934 and the D.Sc. in 1936.

MORE

Subsequently, Dr. Guinness served a year as instructor of chemical engineering at M.I.T. and then was appointed assistant professor and a director in its School of Chemical Engineering Practice at the plants of the Monsanto Chemical Company in Everett, Massachusetts, and of the Hercules Powder Company at Parlin, New Jersey. In 1938, Dr. Guinness joined the Research Department of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, engaging initially in process design and pilot plant development of petroleum and petro-chemical processes. Since 1947, he has been manager of the company's research activities.

Dr. Guinness is a councillor of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and a member of the American Chemical Society and of the Society of Automotive Engineers. He brings to the Research and Development Board a broad experience and talent in the field of chemical engineering and in the management of industrial research. He has been active in RDB as Chairman of the Panel on Fuels Requiring Oxidizers under the Committee on Fuels and Lubricants. Dr. Guinness and his wife, Mrs. Beverly O. Guinness, with their three children, Robert C., Jr., 12; Donald A., 10; and Beverly Anne, 6, live in Flossmoor, Illinois.

\* \* \* \* \*

Edwin A. Speakman, who becomes a Vice Chairman, received his B.S. degree in physics in 1931 from Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania, where he was a scholarship student. From 1931 to 1934, Mr. Speakman was instructor in physics at Haverford College and as part of his graduate study invented a photo-electric timing system on which he holds a patent. This is the first system which used a light beam for timing races automatically and to an accuracy of .01 second. In 1934, Mr. Speakman joined the research laboratories of the Philco Corporation as a radio engineer. Here he invented the telescopic rod antenna which has been adopted for use on all radio-equipped automobiles. Subsequently, he worked with Philco Corporation and automobile companies on matters relating to the development and production of electronic equipment.

After serving as a physicist with the Curtis Publishing Company for a brief period in 1939, Mr. Speakman was appointed to the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. Here, he held the positions of Assistant Superintendent of the Radio Division and headed the Countermeasures Branch of the Laboratory from 1940 to 1949. During this period, he also initiated developments for Naval radar equipment. For this work he received the Navy's Meritorious Civilian Service Award in 1946.

Mr. Speakman joined the staff of the Research and Development Board in May 1949 as executive director of the Committee on Electronics. D.A. Quarles, vice president of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, is chairman of this Committee which is responsible for coordinating all military research and development in the field of electronics.

Mr. Speakman is a Senior Member of the Institute of Radio Engineers, member of the American Physical Society, and former member of

the U.S. Civil Service Board of Examiners for Scientific and Technical personnel. He has been active also in civic affairs as president of the Fairfax Village Citizens Association and as a delegate to the D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations.

Mr. Spcakman's home is in Warberth, Pennsylvania, where he attended Lower Merion High School, graduating in 1927. He resides with his wife and two daughters, Suzanne, 8; and Patricia Anne, 5 months, at 3636 Greenway Drive, S.E. Mrs. Spcakman (nee Dorothy McClellan) comes from Haddonfield, New Jersey, and is a graduate of Glassboro State College, Glassboro, New Jersey.

END