

Fusion Energy Foundation Established

NEW YORK, Nov. 24 (IPS)- A group of twenty scientists and pro-fusion advocates meeting in the Hotel Tudor here yesterday took the historic step of founding the Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF).

With most of their colleagues reduced to mere instrumentalities of Rockefeller's fascist planning apparatus, the handful of scientists on the FEF and in its immediate periphery represent the germ of an organization that will eventually free all of science from the Rockefeller death grip. Until now the only organized political thrust for fusion power has been from the Labor Committees. Now the germ of a united front between scientists and broad layers of the supportive population has been created.

The Pioneers

Coming together to form the scientific advisory body of the new body are three of the most important contributors, the pioneers in the development of fusion research.

Robert Moon, Winston Bostich and Louis. Defying the laws of capitulation to criminal budgets and mediocrity, they are establishing the working class' first scientific center, an Atomic Energy Foundation for the working class.

Professor Robert Moon of the physics department at the University of Chicago, a co-worker of Enrico Fermi and Leo Szilard, proposed one of the first deuterium trapping experiments in the early 1930s.

Prof. Winston Bostich, head of the physics department of Stevens Institute of Technology, has worked on the magnetic pinch approach to fusion since the 1950s and was the first person to explain magnetic filament effects in high density plasma discharges;

Dr. Louis Gold of the Biopolis Corp. of Washington, D.C., originator of numerous innovations in low energy laser fusion theory and a pioneer in high density plasma work.

The body elected a pro-temp Board of Directors which includes: Larry Bogart, the coordinator of over two-hundred anti-fission groups under the Citizens Energy Council, Mr. Russel Johnson, a national leader of the American Friends Service Committee, Chuck Steves and Dr. Moe Levitt, Labor Committee fusion experts and Dr. Fred Howard of the Yale Computer Science Department.

Also in attendance were representatives of two energy policy bodies of the United Nations and a "representative" from the Rockefeller-controlled Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) who dispatched essentially to spy on the proceedings.

Not Just Another Meeting

The day-long conference-symposium focused on a discussion of the social process by which creative scientific work is possible, examining the qualities of the creative human mind. The handful of scientists in attendance, were in the best position to carry out this discussion, representing the potential for the re-establishment of science according to the criteria imposed by the necessity of human progress and development.

Bostich, Moon and Gold saw Rockefeller-aligned forces draw the noose of fusion sabotage around their work, denying them funds, access to information and at times even access to each other. They saw Rockefeller's scientific henchmen, frauds and incompetents, like Robert Oppenheimer and Edward "Madman" Teller build reputations for themselves as "atomic experts," first by stealing their work and most recently by sabotaging fusion research.

The situation is changing. The tens of thousands of workers reading this newspaper are struggling with and mastering the essential point of the latest fusion research

and developing an understanding of fusion technology. For the first time since World War II, workers are beginning to see science as their possession — a tool that can solve their problems. The more than 300,000 votes for the U.S. Labor Party in the recent elections were votes in support of the Labor Party's program calling for the brute force development of fusion power, votes implicitly in support of the work of scientists like Gold, Moon and Bostich.

These scientists are thus being made aware that their real constituency is the working class. The intellectual ferment created within the working class by the discussion fusion power has initiated by the activities of the Labor Committees has had remoralizing effect on fusion scientists. It has given them the courage to put themselves knowingly on the line and attend yesterday's meeting.

This handful of "scientific cadre," along with their supporters, will now organize their colleagues to join the FEF while joining with the Labor Committee in fostering an intellectual renaissance within the working class.

A Question of Survival

Labor Committee chairman Lyn Marcus set the context for the whole session when in his opening remarks, he said: "The problem we are discussing here is not a technical one of fusion, per se. The problem is one of human survival."

Marcus went on to clearly delineate the ecological catastrophe that would destroy human civilization by 1990 unless fusion power is developed by the middle of the next decade. Stressing the genocidal nature of Rockefeller's policies and the suppression of fusion research by his henchmen like Edward Teller, Marcus counterposed as the only possible alternative the renaissance of unfettered scientific creativity. "We must not concern ourselves with so-called absolute time schedules," Marcus stated referring to well-publicized Rockefeller-authored projections that fusion power could not be developed until 1990 "at the earliest." There is no such thing as an absolute time schedule. We must specify what is needed — the application of a fusion power technology by the mid-1980s at the latest — and then organize our research and resources to meet that target date. We are capable of accelerating the rate at which creative scientific development takes place, Marcus stated.

In response, physicists and others present drew upon their experiences, especially with the wartime Manhattan Project that created the atomic bomb, to specify the only condition under which such a creative flowering could take place: broad financial support and complete freedom of inquiry in an atmosphere of intellectual collaboration among morally self-disciplined, creative scientists.

Prof. Bostich raised the fear of bureaucratization and heavy handed interference with creative work that lingers as an afterthought in the minds of most scientists who worked on the brute force Manhattan project, and who suffered through the post-war Dark Ages. Both he and Professor Moon described the tendency of the leadership of the project and various funding agencies during the post-war era to view the scientists as just so many soldiers, or platoons of workers at their desks grinding out daily assignments.

Marcus answered their fears directly, stating that a "multifarious" approach to problem solving was necessary, that creativity could not be mass produced as if it were some assembly line product. (See accompanying box.)

Prof. Moon concretized Marcus' comments by drawing upon his experience. Creativity is a social experience that is fostered by the free exchange of ideas among small groups of creative individuals, he stated as he recalled memories of the Manhattan Project. Describing how the Manhattan project actually worked, despite the wishes of

its military and bureaucratic overseers, Moon stated, "There is an inter-personal method of knowing which comes about when people get together and share ideas. New ideas pop up which are beyond anything that anyone...thought might happen."

Prior to this exchange, Labor Committee fusion expert Chuck Stevens had outlined the general parameter of a brute force fusion development program. Stevens demonstrated that only fusion power would be an actual source of new "net" energy. A fusion power plant, would produce two times as much energy in its first year of operation as all the energy that had been put into its production. In fission, fossil fuel or solar energy production no such net increase in energy production could take place. Dismissing the arguments a number of speakers who had proposed solar energy as a less risky alternative to fusion power development, Stevens demonstrated that the most efficient way to use solar energy would be to use fusion power to expand agricultural production and as a by-product enlarge solar energy "capture" through photosynthesis.

The computer print-out sent to the conference by the AEC's Controlled Thermonuclear Research (CTR) division, a Mr. Rice, spoke in defense of the AEC's criminal sabotage of fusion research. Rice whined about irresponsible scientists who were wasting the taxpayers' money on "fruitless endeavors," fulfilling his initial announcement that he would offend the participants' intelligence with his remarks.

Marcus answered Rice countering "that the creative individual must be intrinsically trusted...there must be

complete trust for scientific progress to take place."

The basis for the Rockefeller-inspired zero-growth movements is the fear of scientific progress that overcomes decaying bourgeois culture — a moral cancer that could destroy human creativity itself in the interest of saving capitalist control over production." Marcus went on. We should not fear progress or the problems that are its "by-products," as is proposed by these modern day barbarians. These so-called problems merely define the next challenge — challenges which science must solve. (See accompanying box.)

Reaching Outward

The Fusion Energy Foundation (FEF) will immediately begin reaching out to the large numbers of independent scientists who are now at work in isolated pockets or as individuals in the hostile environment of a rotting bourgeois society. These scientists will once again be given the intellectual environment and political support to make the creative advances now required to prevent ecological holocaust and human destruction over the next decade.

The FEF will be developing and disseminating the most comprehensive assessments about current fruitful lines of development of fusion power.

Simultaneously, through the publication of articles in this newspaper and through the circulation of such documents as the forthcoming Fusion issues of the Campaigner, the FEF will keep the working class abreast of the latest developments in fusion technology. This augmentation of intellectual ferment in the working class will in turn lay the basis for a scientific renaissance.

FUSION MEETING DEBATE ON HUMAN CREATIVITY

The following is an edited exchange between Profs. Moon and Bostich, and Lyn Marcus. The exchange clearly outlines the essential subjective features of crash scientific program of the type we are proposing for fusion power development, as such it represents in cameo form the type of creative free "exchange of ideas" the speakers refer to.

LYN MARCUS — Dr. Bostich has hit upon a very significant problem which is an included problem that we have to face, and it's a problem which faces socialists in particular. There's an insufficient recognition of the subjective element in human progress. That we have to focus effectively on giving a great deal of freedom and facilities and resources to individual teams which constitute themselves and deconstitute themselves when their specific purpose is completed.

PROF. MOON — I've just jotted down a few things here that I'd like to bring to your attention. The Manhattan project was born after the discovery of the neutron in '32 and then fission in '38 by Hans Strauss. It put scientists to work all over the world in their little laboratories, verifying the various natures of fission. And then the scientists of their own accord went into secrecy. Well, this was one of the first times it seemed that there might be a possibility to get energy from nuclear reactions.

But what I'd like to say is, the atmosphere, that existed at that time, in the first place we had this self-imposed secrecy and went to work on neutron diffusion — that's what we called it. The main thing was a group of scientists were brought together, they were fed work, there was no question about patents or anything of that sort, they were working for the good of the country. There was no — such as we have experienced since then —

there was no long term writing of proposals and writing of reports and so on. The question is: how do you really do research, if there is as crisis on, and you have got to spend a great deal of time writing reports and getting referees to approve them — particularly if it's a new idea? You didn't have to do this on the Manhattan Project. You just went ahead. This is exactly what happened. Scientists worked, and they worked together. They worked on any idea that came to their minds. No stone was left unturned.

This was one of the great things about the Manhattan Project. And we had information meetings — once or twice a week the scientists got together and discussed all the things that were going on. And there was no self-pride involved at all. We were all reduced to the same level and fighting for the same thing.

If we are ever going to go ahead on fusion, it seems to me something of the order of the Manhattan Project (is needed) in which scientists can come together and work and which funds are given and questions are not asked.

PROF. BOSTICH — Let's remember this when we're talking about crash programs. They are not necessarily an answer to the problem. They have inherent difficulties, inherent poisons built into them. They have the seeds of their own destruction built into them. Also, with the situation in fusion now, there are big centers that have their own programs that are already fairly big. There are these empires and the power brokers of these empires and they aren't going to take kindly to a kind of dismemberment of their empire and a pooling of their resources. I don't know how a crash program is going to come about. I really don't see how to organize it. Maybe somebody else does but it looks difficult to me.

So we have a problem of social development here which I think ought to be integral to our approach. What we have