CC: Ernie Pollard

June 12 1960
NY → SFO TW49

Dear Ernie —

I had hoped to ... see you ... about the Dem Adv Com for S&T.

Although I am deeply sympathetic with your objectives, I think I might be more useful if I did not identify myself with your group just now. I am not absolutely convinced of the desirability of taking a partisan stand on scientific issues and though I do not criticize you for doing so, would prefer to work a little differently myself. The most important function of an advisory group should be to advise, e.g. Dem. legislators or Congress as a whole, on scientific policy and I am not sure this can be effectively coupled with public statements of criticism unless you are also ready to voice public criticism of D. policy as well. I prefer to reserve the possibility of the latter, and in hopes that the issue will materialize by virtue of a D. victory I think it might better maintain an independent public position. But more power to you!

If I can be of any assistance in a truly advisory capacity please call on me.

POLLARD, E.

PS. 1. We should be careful to avoid inculcating an atmosphere where appointments such as PSAC or AEC or some neutral Dept of Science will be restricted to members of the party in power. (or we'll be damned as a R. administration — who can could Nixon find?)

2. Of course I do not abjure the right of private political criticism partisan or otherwise

3. Don't there an anomaly in your group speaking for the D Natl C (which does give you much weight in the press) without your being responsible to it?

(over)

I know you must be very busy — don't press yourself to an early reply

I thought carefully about showing your letter to Crystal and did just the page where you discussed the accelerator. I assume this was discreet; if not let me ~~know~~ learn + become the wiser.