

January 5, 1970

Mr. Arthur S. Fleming
President's Commission on White House Fellows
Room 1308
1900 "E" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20415

Dear Mr. Fleming:

I am writing in support of the application of Captain John P. Wheeler, U.S.A. for a White House Fellowship. On a trip to Washington in October, 1968 I had occasion to read a study on chemical and biological weapons written by Captain Wheeler during the previous summer when he had worked at the Defense Department. I was very favorably impressed with Wheeler's analytical approach and his quick understanding of the broader implications of technical information, especially considering that he had no previous knowledge of these weapons and the problems they posed to military planners. The paper presented a clear description of the subject matter and then proceeded to develop a logical framework for the analysis of decisions. On the one hand, the analysis was presented explicitly and clearly allowing the reader to agree or disagree at any point. On the other hand, it did not hang back from reaching firm conclusions. I might add that Captain Wheeler's conclusions came rather close to the decisions recently announced by the President. Because of my own interest in the arms control of CB weapons, I arranged to meet Wheeler in Cambridge later in the fall of 1968. I found him to be a very likable young man who makes an excellent impression. In conversation, he exhibited the same degree of ability to assimilate unfamiliar subject matter and to analyze its policy implications that I had detected in his paper. I believe that Wheeler could fit in well to the operations of the White House Staff and could be depended upon to make valuable contributions there.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Meselson
Professor of Biology

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