

Transcribed Excerpt from "Atomic Bomb Opens New Era in Scientific History" Newspaper Article, August 6, 1945

Dr. Spedding Heads ISC Research on Atomic Bomb and Worries About Weeds in Victory Garden in Spare Time

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A Canadian-born mountain climbing chemist, who admits his victory garden suffered because of some atoms, directed the Iowa State end of the research and development of the atomic bomb.

He is Dr. Frank H. Spedding this morning after passing the scrutiny of a guard who opened a barred door in the ISC chemistry building in answer to our ring.

The conversation on Dr. Spedding's part, consisted largely of "this is off the record," or "I can't tell you about that," but from it we gathered the general idea that the atomic bomb, first announced yesterday, is not made by inserting a fuse in an atom. And its not, we suppose set off by lighting a fuse and then leaving the scene as quickly as possible.

Much of the work done at Iowa State still is shrouded in the same secrecy which has prevailed since the work began here sometime after Pearl Harbor.

Some things, however, Dr. Spedding could make clear. Among them are:
There never was at any time any danger to the city of Ames from the work done at the plant here.

Dr. Spedding is might proud of the ability of his men to keep a secret.

The atomic bomb is a mighty gosh-awful weapon but Dr. Spedding believes that the force involved will be turned to industrial use and can benefit mankind.

Among the facts still on the secret list are the number of workers employed here, who was employed here, the materials worked with.

"We were part of a team," Dr. Spedding said.

The force involved in the atomic bomb comes from changing of the atomic structures of the materials used. Dr. Spedding said.

He explained that in rusting, for example, that chemical process results in the electrons of the atoms being disturbed. In the atomic bomb, the atoms themselves are changed and energy is released. The energy released is tremendous, he said.

Dr. Spedding explained that personnel for the work here was thoroughly investigated by the FBI before being hired. Many of those employed here had trouble with draft boards, he said. The draft boards couldn't see why apparently healthy men were being deferred or why deferments were sought for the men. The local board, Dr. Spedding explained was very cooperative ...