

### Tells Story Of How U. S. Scientists Missed The Boat

WASHINGTON (AP) — The story of how U.S. scientists missed the boat on an important atomic invention because they failed to read a letter they thought came from a "crazy Greek" was told Thursday to a congressional committee.

The invention now stands to save the United States at least \$70,000,000 in the construction of a powerful atom-smashing machine.

U.S. scientists did perfect the invention, but they found out later the same thing was developed a year before by a Greek electrical engineer named Nicholas Christofilos.

Christofilos wrote a letter to some American scientists at the time but they "tossed it into the files" without reading it because they thought it was just "another letter from that crazy Greek."

The story was related to the Senate-House of Representatives atomic subcommittee on research and development by Dr. George K. Green of the Atomic Energy Commission.

In 1950, Christofilos wrote the AEC-supported University of California radiation laboratory on the subject of atom-smashers.

Green said the letter "was a mess," and the UCRL scientists wrote him a reply "analyzing all his errors and misconceptions."

**DITCH SECOND LETTER**

A year later, said Green, another letter came. The scientists thought it was "a crank letter" and "they didn't even read it."

In the summer of 1952, a team of scientists came up with an invention known as the "strong focusing principle," immediately recognized as something that would make possible a powerful atom-smasher with a big saving

in materials and power needed to run it.

Shortly after that, Christofilos turned up and one day while having lunch with Dr. Green mentioned that he had come up with the same invention a year before. He also told Green about having written to the California scientists.

Green immediately telephoned the scientists.

"They got his letter out of the files," Green grinned, "and their faces were red."

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