

Resource Sheet #01

**Excerpts of Letter from Senator Kenneth McKellar
to President Harry Truman, September 1945**

“. . . It seems to me unwise, impolitic and dangerous to our nation’s defense, provocative of war, and dangerous to peace, to give this formula to Russia, England, Canada or to any other nation. . .”

“From a military standpoint, from actual experience with it, it is the greatest military power or force in the world today and, therefore, it may be and probably is the greatest foe of peace and the greatest promoter of war ever known in the world. . .

“. . . The United States wants no other nation’s property and wants no other nation’s territory. We simply want to live in peace with all of our neighbors and trade and traffic and have good relations with all. This is not true of other nations as shown by their history. The only safe trustee of this formula is the United States. . .

“. . . Given such a dangerous weapon or the formula for it, each and every nation will at once get their scientists busy with it and the most of them will think they have improved it in a better and more effective way than any other nation and it won’t be long before they will want to go to war to prove that they have got the best bomb in the world and, unless they change their past thousand years history, a war of bombs will soon be fought. To give the formula for this weapon to other nations or to any other nation without money and without price would be to invite them to get busy and prepare for another world war. . .”