By Robert S. Allen

Washington, July 23—There is a personal phase of the dramatic Oppenheimer case that is still hanging fire.

This is what Atomic Chairman Strauss intends to do about the scientist's continuing as director of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton.

Strauss is head of the trustees of this famed organization.

He is displaying explosive touchiness about this question. Efforts to draw him out on it have been sternly reproved.

"I am shocked that you would even consider asking such a question," he exclaimed. "It's questions like that which make me so critical of the press. I am not going to answer it."

With that he walked away.

One trustee wants it known he favors retaining Oppenheimer at the Institute. He is Sen. Lehman (D., N.Y.).

"Everything I know about his work there is honorable and outstanding," says Lehman. "He is a brilliant scientist and I am strongly in favor of keeping him. A demand for his removal can be brought up at any time, but I'll fight it if it happens."

Other trustees include Sidney Mitchell, Republican, banker and utility executive; John M. Hancock, Republican, banker and insurance executive; Harold F. Linder, former Assistant Secretary of State; Dr. John Fulton, physiologist and medical historian; Wilmuth Sheldon Lewis, editor and chairman of the Yale Library Association; Lessing Rosenwald, Chicago.

Oppenheimer was questioned about the Institute during the secret hearings of the Gray Board. Following are the highlights of his testimony from the transcript of the proceedings:

"The Institute is not part of Princeton University. It is a separate institution. It has about 130 members who are post-doctoral. Some of them are youngsters just out of graduate school; others are men of 50 and 60. We have a very good training ground for students in pure mathematics, applied mathematics and theoretical physics. Many of those at the Institute are supported by the U.S. government; others go into work for a limited time for our government."

"We have one other function which I believe to be important at this time. We are, as much as we can be with our limited resources, an open house to scholars throughout the free world, from Europe, Japan, India and elsewhere. I think more than half of our people are from outside the United States."

"We have a number of government undertakings. One of the more interesting is that we seem for the first time to be able to predict cyclogenesis—the generation of storms. This is of practical value, and the government has instituted a program based on the research done at the Institute."

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"We think we do a great deal towards persuading a small fraction of the people abroad that the United States is a humane and civilized place. Programs about the Institute have been carried by the Voice of America and in State Department bulletins."