Long Time Public Servant Carries Controversy With Him

By BILL LIEBLICH

Lewis Strauss, former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, will speak at a Forum Committee presentation tomorrow at 3:30 pm at Hamman Hall.

Born in Charleston, West Virginia, in 1896, Strauss began his public career in 1917 as a volunteer secretary to Herbert Hoover, Food Administrator during the First World War.

Following the war, Strauss was offered a five-figure job by the firm of Kuhn, Loeb and Company. His successes with the firm resulted in his being made a full partner at the age of 32.

In 1946, he was appointed to the United States Atomic Energy Commission, on which he served until 1950. From 1950 to 1953, he was a director of the Radio Corporation of America. In 1953, President Eisenhower appointed him to the Chairmanship of the AEC, which he held until 1958.

During his membership and chairmanship of the AEC, Strauss was instrumental in getting the Hydrogen bomb program started. He was involved in several controversies, including the Dixon-Yates electric power contract and the lifting of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer’s security clearance.

STRAUSS WAS appointed Secretary of Commerce in 1958, following the resignation of Sinclair Weeks. However, in 1959, the Senate voted 49-46 to refuse to ratify his appointment following a bitter congressional battle.

His book, “Men and Decisions,” discusses various issues in which he was involved and the parts played in them by the important figures in politics and science.