Management was not aware of these things. We needed to make it known.

So Ng joined with Joel Wong, an industrial hygienist at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory near San Francisco, to give Energy Secretary Bill Richardson a short list of presentations. The Chinese government was introduced to lead a session on computer security. In another, a lab manager told an Asian American employee that “personal characteristics” would determine a person’s career opportunities in the wake of recent disclosures of security breaches, implying that ethnicity was one such characteristic.

Then there was the teasing. Someone wondered aloud whether an Asian American employee got “rich” by selling classified information, according to Ng and Wong. Someone else noted sharing information in a colleague of Asian descent who might be a “spy.”

Two Chinese American lab employees who insisted on recounting similar incidents in separate interviews with a Times reporter. One said he had been asked at work whether he had “dual loyalties.”

CONFLICTS AND ELSEWHERE

Whether an ethnic backlash actually is occurring to any significant degree is hard to determine. But concerns about possible ethnic stereotyping are rising and not just among Asian lab employees. The subject comes up in government circles, in the scientific community, in the ethnic Asian media, in high-tech business groups and among Asian American civic leaders who fear a replay of the uproar directed at Asian American political donors after revelations of attempts by foreign interests to influence the 1996 elections.

Prominent Asian Americans have met with Richardson four times and once with White House Chief of Staff John Podesta to seek assurance that discrimination and ethnically motivated incidents in U.S. labs would not be subject to discrimination.

“Asian Pacific Americans are concerned that their loyalty and their patriotism are being challenged,” Richardson acknowledged in a speech April 30. “And that’s because of racism.”

The Energy secretary vowed to protect the rights of all laboratory workers and to visit the labs in person to drive the point home. In Congress, Reps. Tom Campbell (R-San Jose) and David Wu (D-Ore.), who is the first Chinese American member of the House, are drafting a resolution expressing support for Chinese Americans.

Wu said there is “widespread concern in the Chinese American community and particularly the Chinese American scientific community. These are folks who work very, very hard. They are Americans. By all accounts that I know of, they work hard and play by the rules.’’

“Some reports that some scientists and engineers in Silicon Valley now worry about traveling to professional conferences in mainland China for fear that they will be suspected of leaking technological secrets to China and other countries seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Their campaign is likely to gain considerable influence as the Senate Subcommittee on Security of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in March: “We’ve got to remember the threats everywhere as far as we can.”

ASIAN AMERICANS

Asian American scientists, engineers and civil servants are everywhere in sensitive espionage assignments. But they content that some Republican leaders in Congress, aided by unbalanced media reports, have cast a cloud over Chinese American scientists—doing legitimate scientific work in the weapons labs and elsewhere. Senator refers to “very crafty people.”

Sen. Robert C. Shelby (R-Ala.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in March: “We’ve got to remember the threats everywhere as far as we can.”

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, but certainly all members are invited to submit statements for the RECORD in terms of the experiences of their own individual districts and the participation in these social, economic, educational and political life of Asian Pacific Americans in their districts.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California), for today.

Mr. MURPHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 60 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.

A BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on the following day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

May 21, 1999: H.R. 1141. Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.