

where needed, particularly in rural areas; establish clinics for quick diagnosis and treatment of disease; encourage vaccination against preventable diseases.

Develop maternal and child welfare facilities, including baby clinics, schools for expectant mothers, visiting nurses and obstetrical care if needed.

Stimulate public health service to control disease through such activities as controlling stream pollution, establishing more efficient quarantines, health instruction for both children and adults and closer inspection of milk and water supplies.

Funds would be allotted to states and communities under restrictions requiring that they do their part in health promotion.

In submitting the program to the Congress on January 23, President Roosevelt sent the following message:

In my annual message to the Congress I referred to problems of health security. I take occasion now to bring this subject specifically to your attention in transmitting the report and recommendations on National Health prepared by the Inter-Departmental Committee to coordinate health and welfare activities.

The health of the people is a public concern; ill health is a major cause of suffering, economic loss and dependency; good health is essential to the security and progress of the nation.

Health needs were studied by the Committee on Economic Security which I appointed in 1934 and certain basic steps were taken by the Congress in the Social Security Act. It was recognized at that time that a comprehensive health program was required as an essential link to our national defenses against individual and social insecurity. Further study, however, seemed necessary at that time to determine ways and means of providing this protection most effectively.

In August, 1935, after the passage of the Social Security Act, I appointed the Inter-Departmental Committee to Coordinate Health and Welfare Activities. Early in 1938, this committee forwarded to me reports prepared by their technical experts. They had reviewed unmet health needs, pointing to the desirability of a National Health Program, and they submitted the outlines of such a program. These reports were impressive. I therefore suggested that a conference be held to bring the findings before representatives of the general public and the medical, public health and allied professions.

More than 200 men and women, representing many walks of life and many parts of our country, came together in Washington last July to consider the technical committee's findings and recommendations and to offer further proposals. There was agreement on two basic points, the existence of serious unmet needs for medical service; and our failure to make full application of the growing powers of medical science to prevent or control disease and disability.

I have been concerned by the evidence of inequalities that exist among the states as to personnel and facilities for health services. There are equally serious inequalities

of resources; medical facilities and services in different sections and among different economic groups. These inequalities create handicaps for the parts of our country and the groups of our people which most sorely need the benefits of modern medical science.

The objective of a National Health Program is to make available in all parts of our country and for all groups of our people the scientific knowledge and skill at our command to prevent and care for sickness and disability; to safeguard mothers, infants and children, and to offset through social insurance the loss of earnings among workers who are temporarily or permanently disabled.

The committee does not propose a great expansion of federal health services. It recommends that plans be worked out and administered by states and localities with the assistance of federal grants-in-aid. The aim is a flexible program. The committee points out that while the eventual costs of the proposed program would be considerable, they represent a sound investment which can be expected to wipe out, in the long run, certain costs now borne in the form of relief.

We have reason to derive great satisfaction from the increase in the average length of life in our country and from the improvement in the average levels of health and well-being. Yet these improvements in the averages are cold comfort to the millions of our people whose security in health and survival is still as limited as was that of the nation as a whole fifty years ago.

The average level of health or the average cost of sickness has little meaning for those who now must meet personal catastrophes. To know that a stream is four feet deep on the average is of little help to those who drown in the places where it is ten feet deep. The recommendations of the committee offer a program to bridge that stream by reducing the risks of needless suffering and death, and of costs and dependency, that now overwhelm millions of individual families and sap the resources of the nation.

I recommend the report of the Inter-Departmental Committee for careful study by the Congress. The essence of the program recommended by the committee is federal-state cooperation. Federal legislation necessarily precedes, for it indicates the assistance which may be made available to the states in a cooperative program for the nation's health.

### SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

THE importance of scientific research and the part played in research by the Federal Government were emphasized in a report by the National Resources Committee transmitted to the Congress by President Roosevelt on January 23. The study was directed by a Subcommittee on Research of the Science Committee, consisting of Charles H. Judd, University of Chicago, *chairman*; William F. Ogburn, University of Chicago, and Edwin B. Wilson, Harvard University. Other members of the Science Committee are: Ross G. Harrison, Yale University, *chairman*, National Research

Council; John C. Merriam, formerly president of the Carnegie Institution; Waldo G. Leland, secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies; Harry A. Millis, University of Chicago; Walter D. Cocking, University of Georgia, and Edward C. Elliott, president of Purdue University.

In his letter of transmittal to the Congress, President Roosevelt wrote:

The dependence of civilization on science is universally recognized, but the extent of the activities of private and public agencies carrying on scientific inquiry is not generally known.

It is not likely that large numbers of our people have any adequate realization of the services which are being rendered by the executive agencies of the Federal Government through scientific researches in medicine, agriculture, economics, public administration and the other natural and social sciences.

This report indicates the new emphasis in recent years on activities in the social science fields and stresses the need for effective coordination of all agencies engaged in research in order to achieve the solution of many of our more difficult problems.

The report, entitled "Research—A National Resource," the first of a series in this field, was prepared by the Science Committee of the National Resources Committee and covers the relations of the Federal Government to the problem, while later studies will be concerned with research by universities and colleges, by business organizations, by the large industrial laboratories and by state and municipal governments.

The Federal Government, according to the report, spent on research approximately one dollar for each person in the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1937. The \$120,000,000 spent in this field, however, represented only about 2 per cent. of the total budget, in contrast to industrial corporations which spend about 4 per cent. of their budgets on research and universities which spend as much as 25 per cent. The number of professional and scientific workers employed by the Federal Government, under the Classification Act, from 1924 to 1937 has doubled.

The seven recommendations are made by the committee as follows:

1. That two studies be made to supplement those reported in this volume, one of the advisory committees which now cooperate with federal research agencies and one of research carried on by states and municipalities. The latter study may well enlist the cooperation of the state and regional planning boards.

2. That steps be taken to improve the methods of recruiting research workers for governmental service and to provide more effective in-service training for civil employees of the government.

3. That research agencies of the government be authorized and encouraged to enter into contracts for the prosecution of research projects with the National Academy of Science, the National Research Council, the Social Science Research Council, the American Council on Education, the American Council of Learned Societies and other recognized research agencies.

4. That official recognition and, where necessary, financial support be given by the government to international meetings of scientists, and that American participation in international organizations and projects be encouraged.

5. That research within the government and by non-governmental agencies, which cooperate with the government, be so organized and conducted as to avoid the possibilities of bias through subordination in any way to policy-making and policy-enforcing.

6. That research agencies of the government extend the practice of encouraging decentralized research in institutions not directly related to the government and by individuals not in its employ.

7. That the interrelations of governmental research agencies be furthered by the organization of central councils along the same lines as those exhibited by the existing national councils of research specialists. These inter-agency councils would serve to systematize the efforts which are now made by various interbureau committees to coordinate the research activities within the government.

#### LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

A LUNCHEON was held at the Columbia University Faculty Club on January 23, under the auspices of the New York City Committee of the Lincoln's Birthday Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom. Professor Franz Boas announced that the national committee, consisting of twenty-eight scientific men from all parts of the country, including two Nobel Prize laureates and twelve members of the National Academy of Sciences, are sponsoring public meetings in metropolitan and college communities throughout the country on Lincoln's birthday on February 12.

It is the purpose of these meetings, which are an outgrowth of the Manifesto on Freedom of Science signed by 1,284 scientific men, to show that workers in science and education are ready to participate actively in the defense of democracy and intellectual freedom.

The master meeting will be held in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City at 1:30 P.M. on February 12. Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace will speak on "Racial Theories and the Genetic Basis of Democracy." Arrangements have been made to broadcast the addresses over the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company. Other speakers will be Professor Harold C. Urey, of Columbia University; Dr. Ordway Tead, president of the New York City Board of Higher Education, and Professor Clyde R. Miller, of Teachers College, Columbia University.