

dustry in Germany as if it were a shining light toward which we should direct our footsteps. This very regimentation of science, technology and industry will prove that nation's undoing. By enforcing regimentation Germany has frozen her scientific and technical assets. As a result she will lose the war because she has destroyed the freedom and competitive spirit which is fundamental to research and on which her ultimate survival depends. We should not make the same blunder by enactment of the Kilgore bill.

The passage of Senate Bill 702 to establish the Office of Scientific and Technological Mobilization would be exceedingly detrimental if not disastrous to the war effort. My convictions are based on the following:

Practically every laboratory in the nation is in the service of the government. These laboratories are headed and staffed by specialists in their particular fields, whether in universities, colleges, research foundations, or operated by individuals and corporations. It is unnecessary for the government to take them over as their programs would be disrupted by any change in management.

Scientists and technologists, though primarily in-

dividualists, are submerging personalities in cooperative research of the widest scope, intent only with getting the job done as well and as speedily as possible.

To center the myriad researches now going on in one organization would throw the programs out of gear, causing months or perhaps years of delay while adaptation to the new conditions took place, and during this time we could well lose the war.

As one illustration of scientific and industrial cooperation, individual oil companies, vigorous competitors in peacetime, are now working together, disclosing to each other their processes and technique relating to 100-octane aviation gasoline, lubricants, components of synthetic rubber, toluene for T.N.T. and many other materials produced from petroleum. There are no secrets in the oil industry for the duration.

It is suggested that every scientist, technologist and industrialist carefully study Senate Bills 607 and 702.

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QUOTATIONS

SCIENCE AND THE CENSOR

In a joint statement the Army and Navy at last acknowledge that "radar" (a radio detecting and ranging device which spots distant enemy aircraft and which helped to thwart the German attempt to reduce Great Britain to submission) has its uses in war. The press may now presumably tell the public of a device which was patented in half a dozen different forms nearly twenty years ago and described at least in principle in official textbooks. The restrictions by which other military and naval inventions are hedged should also be removed so far as common sense and military discretion permit. By this time, for example, our famous Norden bombsight must have fallen into the hands of the enemy. And so with range-finders and other apparatus captured by the Japanese in the Philippines.

For good reasons of their own the British often release information which is cabled to this country, but which, under the prevailing rules, must be suppressed here. A knowing newspaper man could dig it out of the speeches made by Government spokesmen in response to questions asked in the House of Commons or from articles which have appeared in *Nature*, *Engineering*, and the *Aeroplane* and which have undoubtedly been approved. But if he prepares an article on his findings he is likely to encounter a

granite wall in Washington. Can it be that we know better than the British what may or may not be revealed?

This policy of silence is not limited to strictly military and naval technical news. It includes biology and medicine. It has even happened that statistics given by the President and Cabinet officers in public addresses have been suppressed. Yet the most absurd stories of German technical achievements appear, with the result that the Nazis are credited with far more ingenuity than any people can possess.

It is manifest that the British and American officers of censorship are not coordinated as they should be. It is also manifest that our censors either do not know what is technically new and what is not or that their superiors have given orders that have no justification in the light of military necessity. There has been some disposition of late to take the science writers of the press into the confidence of the War Department, as the recent inspection by invitation of some Eastern war plants indicates. The accounts that the reporters published of what they saw must have been heartening to millions of readers. We want more such articles. A policy of secrecy where there are no secrets can not fail to have a depressing effect on morale. Nothing is worse in time of war than rumor. And the only way to counteract rumor is to publish facts well known to enemy scientists and engineers.—*The New York Times*.