

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LETTER ON THE OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

THE President has written the following letter to Dr. Vannevar Bush, Office of Scientific Research and Development:

Dear Dr. Bush:

The Office of Scientific Research and Development, of which you are the Director, represents a unique experiment of team-work and cooperation in coordinating scientific research and in applying existing scientific knowledge to the solution of the technical problems paramount in war. Its work has been conducted in the utmost secrecy and carried on without public recognition of any kind; but its tangible results can be found in the communiques coming in from the battle-fronts all over the world. Some day the full story of its achievements can be told.

There is, however, no reason why the lessons to be found in this experiment can not be profitably employed in times of peace. The information, the techniques, and the research experience developed by the Office of Scientific Research and Development and by the thousands of scientists in the universities and in private industry, should be used in the days of peace ahead for the improvement of the national health, the creation of new enterprises bringing new jobs, and the betterment of the national standard of living.

It is with that objective in mind that I would like to have your recommendations on the following four major points:

First: What can be done, consistent with military security, and with the prior approval of the military authorities, to make known to the world as soon as possible the contributions which have been made during our war effort to scientific knowledge?

The diffusion of such knowledge should help us

stimulate new enterprises, provide jobs for our returning servicemen and other workers, and make possible great strides for the improvement of the national well-being.

Second: With particular reference to the war of science against disease, what can be done now to organize a program for continuing in the future the work which has been done in medicine and related sciences?

The fact that the annual deaths in this country from one or two diseases alone are far in excess of the total number of lives lost by us in battle during this war should make us conscious of the duty we owe future generations.

Third: What can the Government do now and in the future to aid research activities by public and private organizations? The proper roles of public and of private research, and their interrelation, should be carefully considered.

Fourth: Can an effective program be proposed for discovering and developing scientific talent in American youth so that the continuing future of scientific research in this country may be assured on a level comparable to what has been done during the war?

New frontiers of the mind are before us, and if they are pioneered with the same vision, boldness, and drive with which we have waged this war we can create a fuller and more fruitful employment and a fuller and more fruitful life.

I hope that, after such consultation as you may deem advisable with your associates and others, you can let me have your considered judgment on these matters as soon as convenient—reporting on each when you are ready, rather than waiting for completion of your studies in all.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE James Watt International Medal for 1945 has been awarded to Dr. F. W. Lanchester, F.R.S., consulting engineer, for his work on the development of the motor-car and the aeroplane. The medal is awarded by the council of the British Institution of Mechanical Engineers, with the collaboration of engineering institutions in some eighteen countries. He is the fourth recipient of the medal; the others were Henry Ford, Orville Wright and M. Michel.

THE Clough Memorial Medal of the Geological Society of Edinburgh for the year 1943-44 has been awarded to Dr. Murray Macgregor in recognition of his contributions to the geology of Scotland and in particular to the geology of the Scottish coalfields.

THE American Academy of Pediatrics presented at the St. Louis Wartime Conference on Child Health on November 3 the first annual Borden Award to Major Harry H. Gordon, M.C., assistant professor on leave, and Dr. Sam Z. Levine, professor of pediatrics at the Cornell University Medical College, in recognition of their work on "Metabolic Studies on Nutritional Requirements of Premature and Full Term Infants." The award consists of a bronze medal with the inscription "award for outstanding achievement in research in nutrition of infants and children" and a prize of \$1,000.

A BANQUET was held on December 4 in honor of James Fisher, for forty-five years head of the depart-