

Hiroshima. During these last two years of the war Dr. Conant spent an increasingly major portion of his time on the atomic bomb project, unbeknown to any except a few of his closest colleagues, but in spite of this added burden continued effectively to coordinate and steer the program of NDRC.

Any one of the above war assignments would have been a notable contribution to the nation. Taken all together they constitute a truly remarkable record of achievement, and one which can be fully appreciated only by those who have themselves known at first hand something of the magnitude and complexity of the problems which were involved, as well as the success of the achievements and the importance of their contributions to the winning of the war.

Some of these responsibilities continue but, happily, on a much-diminished scale, and Dr. Conant is now able to devote increasing time to the reconversion problems and to the establishment of the revised educational program at Harvard University, based on the report of the Harvard committee on General Education in a Free Society.

This record of achievement is ample explanation of Dr. Conant's election to the presidency of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. With the confidence and the teamwork which were developed among American scientists during the war, there is a very great opportunity for the advancement of science and its effective contributions to our society in the era of peace which we now enter.

Science Legislation

Compromise Bill for a National Science Foundation

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Agreement has been reached on the final draft of a National Science Foundation bill which will make its way to the Senate floor as rapidly as legislative machinery can function.

Senator Saltonstall presided at the meeting 9 February, held in the Military Affairs committee room at the Capitol, which accomplished a resolution of conflicting views and redrafted a National Science Foundation bill. Senators Kilgore and Magnuson, representatives of the Committee Supporting the Bush Report, the Committee for a National Science Foundation, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with legal counsel, discussed the few remaining provisions of S. 1720 still in dispute. Complete accord was effected on every issue under Senator Saltonstall's leadership.

The new bill,¹ which will now go to the Senate, will be known as the Kilgore-Magnuson Bill. Senators Johnson, Pepper, Fulbright and Saltonstall, and possibly others, will be co-sponsors. The new draft will bear a new number, although S. 1720, introduced 19 December 1945, served as its base (*Science*, 1946, 103, 39-44).

The changes are not many in number and some of them can scarcely be called improvements; but they have served the purpose of providing safeguards liberalizing, qualifying, or clarifying clauses in S. 1720

to which objections had been raised. The relationships between the Administrator and the National Science Board have been more precisely delineated, reducing the possibility of friction and deadlock. The functions of the Division of Social Sciences are yet partially restricted until the divisional committee surveys the field and submits its recommendations to the Board. Somewhat more rigid standards are placed upon all projects for which Foundation support is sought, and the Administrator is given more latitude in denying subvention to proposals that do not conform to the policies and standards of the Foundation.

The patent provisions of S. 1720 have undergone extensive revision without sacrificing the basic principles of free dissemination and public use of all knowledge and discoveries arising from Federal support. The attempt has been made to provide equal access to Foundation support or contracts without requiring or inviting changes in corporate structure of the applicant bodies. At the same time government agencies are no more restricted than they have been in arranging to have essential research done. The new bill provides for the absorption of the Office of Scientific Research and Development and of the Roster of Scientific and Specialized Personnel. The new bill provides a new horizon for international cooperation.

It is a document which combines sound scientific thinking with sagacious political realism and to which scientists can unhesitatingly lend their support.

¹ *Science* will carry the full text of the new bill 22 February.