
SCIENCE

Vol. 103, No. 2676

Friday, April 12, 1946

Advisory Committee on Scientific Personnel

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THE EXTENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH under government administration is clearly to be greater in the postwar years than ever in history. The military departments alone will be faced with the need for large-scale activities if they are to keep pace with the unfolding of science. But also the other departments having scientific responsibilities will need to enhance the pace and scope of their activities. These facts have led government scientists to see the need to improve the employment status of Civil Service scientists by revised Civil Service rules and regulations affecting scientific employees, so that government service in this field may achieve a career potentiality on a par with any other type of scientific employment.

To attain this end, there has been established by the Civil Service Commission an Advisory Committee on Scientific Personnel. The recommendation for the establishment of the Committee was made by the Council of Personnel Administration, the official government policy-forming organization in personnel matters. The members of the new Advisory Committee were named in each case by the Secretary of the Federal department represented. The chairman was selected from a nongovernment agency to provide representation of the point of view of organized science.

The activities of the ACSPP have been in two main areas. Important from the first was the need to facilitate in-service training for the rather large army (ca. 5,000-10,000) of Federal scientific and technical employees at the graduate level in the Washington area. This problem has involved canvasses to determine course needs and course offerings, and efforts to assist in solving educational problems associated with

this work. These and attendant problems are being met by an auxiliary committee, the Science Training Group, under the chairmanship of Dr. M. W. White, Dr. Philip Powers, secretary.

The other major area of interest of the ACSPP has been in the regulations under which the scientific Civil Service works. Here, too, an auxiliary committee has been set up and has been working to develop concrete recommendations which, after concurrence by the senior committee, are then taken up by the ACSPP with the Civil Service Commission and others for discussion. The members of the auxiliary committee on Civil Service regulations are: Dr. A. H. Hausrath, Navy Department; Dr. K. E. Lohman, U. S. Geological Survey; Dr. W. H. Larrimer, Department of Agriculture; Dr. M. J. Shear, National Cancer Institute; Dr. F. G. Brickwedde, National Bureau of Standards; Dr. R. C. Duncan, Naval Ordnance Laboratory; and Lt. Col. T. H. Whitehead, Chemical Warfare Service.

Perhaps from time to time some discussion of particular recommendations may occur in the scientific periodicals. In view of the increasing role of scientists in the Government, there can be no doubt that all scientists have a stake in the matter. Some recommendations have already been made, and, in fact, the Executive Order of 16 February 1946, providing for return of Civil Service to a peacetime status, includes several provisions reflecting the thinking of the Committee. Other recommendations are now under consideration. The article which follows is deemed of interest to scientists generally as a by-product of the considerations of this Committee.

MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL

M. H. Trytten, *Chairman*, Office of Scientific Personnel, National Research Council; Ralph D. Bennett, Capt., USNR, Naval Ordnance Laboratory; Edward U. Condon, National Bureau of Standards; R. E. Dyer, National Institute of Health (represented by L. F. Badger); Stanley B. Fracker, Agricultural Research Administration; Kenneth L. Heaton, Office of the Secretary of War; Thomas B. Nolan, U. S. Geological Survey. (Ross Pollock, Civil Service Commission, liaison.)