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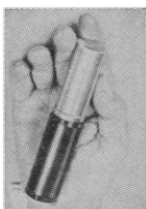
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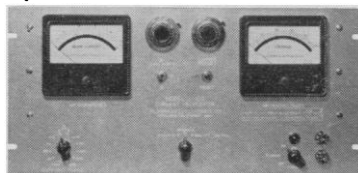
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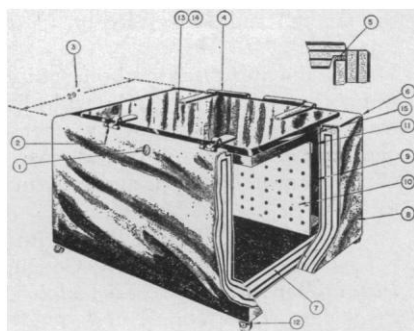
Scientists and Government

The storm warnings are out, and all scientists should take heed. Recently, the "Parliament of Science," assembled by the AAAS in Washington, came out with several statements. One of these resolutions rejected a proposal for a federal Department of Science with cabinet status. The arguments marshaled were that the present arrangement has proved satisfactory in the past and in the present, and that the cabinet officer would necessarily be a political appointee and would be called upon to deal with basic research, which should not be amenable to political direction. Now on the surface these arguments appear to be irrefutable, but are they based on the facts of present-day scientific research? Are the scientists in this country today in the same position vis-à-vis the rest of society as they were even ten years ago?

The answer is no; and let me quote a revealing document. A report prepared by the staff of the Senate Government Operations Committee came out recently, dealing with an analysis of legislation to establish a Department of Science and Technology to coordinate the Government's scientific activities. This report accused the nation's scientists of evading responsibility in helping in this matter; further, "there does not appear to be much hope of obtaining objective, unbiased, and constructive recommendations from most of the scientists who normally would be called upon to assist the Congress in drafting a program for legislative action." And, "about the only alternative suggestion that has come to the attention of the staff has been that all basic science functions, whether Government controlled or supported, should continue to be placed under the exclusive administrative jurisdiction and control of scientists and the status quo maintained, except for increased funds." Well!

My contention is this. The nonscientific public, in and out of government, have become convinced in the last few years that any and all progress in military, economic, social, and even political matters can only be obtained with the massive aid of an organized, coordinated scientific program. We scientists may disagree, but there it is—these are the facts of scientific existence today. As a result, the role of the scientist has been changing, from one of being a virtual outcast from society to one of being forced to participate in the affairs of society whether he wants to or not. If this is the case, and I strongly believe it is, the next question arising is that of giving direction or control to scientific research. In this context, I believe that the men who drafted the proposal at the AAAS meet-

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ing are living in a world which has ceased to exist. In this context, I believe that the report of the Senate committee is correct in that the scientists are evading their responsibility—responsibility not so much to government as to themselves and to other scientists.

And here we come to the crux of the matter; who is going to assume control and direction of scientific research in this country? The men assembled in the "Parliament of Science" are living in a dream world if they think that the old system concerning the government cornucopia is going to last much longer. At this moment, I would say that in general no one has control over the means and methods of research; this control has never been lost, it just hasn't existed. The existence of this lack of control is certainly not apparent from the deliberations of the "Parliament of Science"; conversely, it is all the Senate committee spoke about. It is clear to me that unless the so-called leaders and spokesmen of science cease their ostrich-like attitude concerning this matter, they and the rest of us scientists will find ourselves on the outside, working on projects whether we want to or not, over whose direction we have no say-so, and being subjected to the rules of nonscientific political officers, and having no opportunity to influence these men or the laws by which they govern.

My own feeling on what to do rests upon the assumption that only by going into political action, by working with political officers, and by trying to see to it that correct laws are passed and correct officials are instigated to do the correct things—correct by our scientific standards—can we avoid any resemblance to "Lysenkoism" in this country.

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Prepublication

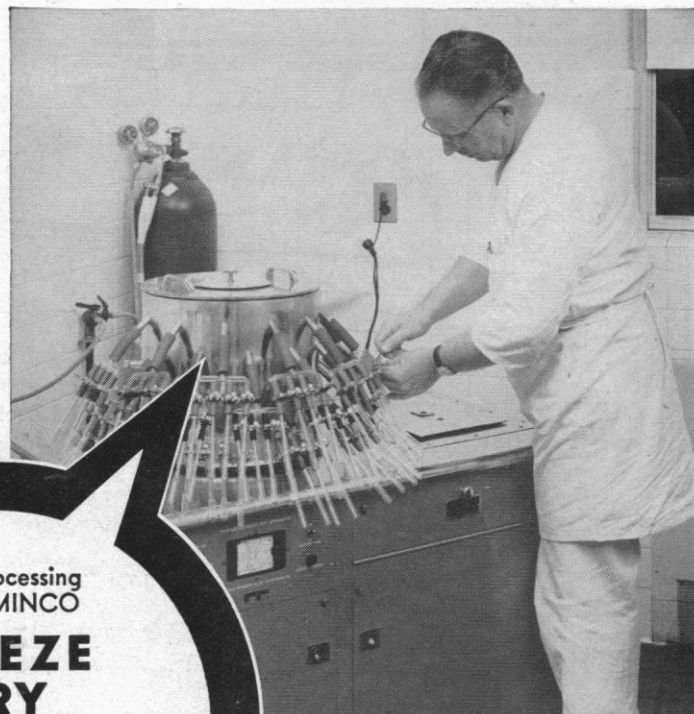
With regard to your editorial of 21 March on prepublication, I believe that observance of a few very simple rules would eliminate any confusion in references to mimeographed material. This material appears in various forms but can probably be grouped into three general categories.

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