

made available for the use of the universities and the government agencies concerned.

I think it is fair to say that, while the establishment of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is in many respects the most conspicuous aspect of its work, the committee did not forget the broad assignment "to consider the share of the United States of America in a world-wide program of oceanographic research," and has supported the development of existing oceanographic stations on the Pacific coast and of the Bermuda Biological Station for Research on an international basis.

The responsibility for the continuation of the program assigned by the academy to its committee on oceanography has been transferred to the agencies thus set up, and the committee was accordingly discharged at its request in 1938.

FRANK RATTRAY LILLIE

PRESENTATION OF THE PUBLIC WELFARE MEDAL TO JOHN EDGAR HOOVER

By temperament, by tradition and by resolution, the people of the United States are devoted to the ideal of human freedom and human dignity. This ideal may be threatened from without our country or from within, and the dictum that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty applies as well in the one case as in the other. The great science of medicine has been developed to preserve the physical and mental health of the individual. Of equal importance is the safeguarding of the health of our social organism. There exist constantly in this organism malignant cells, often combined into groups, enemies of the wholesome life.

To maintain law and order in our society is more than to preserve property or safeguard life. It is to maintain a social framework in which the good life may be lived to free men from the threat of vicious cruelty of the criminally minded. Respect for government itself grows as governmental agencies succeed in this vital work of the preservation of freedom.

To-night the National Academy of Sciences presents the Marcellus Hartley Medal for great public service to the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice. John Edgar Hoover was born and educated in the District of Columbia. At the completion of his legal training he entered the Department of Justice in 1917, and in 1919 was appointed a special assistant to the Attorney General. In 1921 he became assistant director of the Bureau of Investigation and in 1924 was named its director.

Hoover brought to this great agency of American law enforcement a high idealism, great organizing ability and a trained mind. He insisted at once on

freedom in making appointments to his staff from any political pressure, and rapidly raised to a high level the requirements in character and training for the personnel of the bureau. Brain and character—not brawn—became the word. College graduates—not political cast-offs—became his special agents. Specialized functions were organized and raised to a high efficiency. Their names are familiar to all: the Identification Bureau, the Crime Laboratory, the Department of Crime Statistics. Through the National Police Academy with an outstanding group of instructors, police officers from the entire country share the intensive training of the agents of the Federal Bureau. Through this organization the dignity and ability of a profession are being brought to a level consistent with its social importance.

The potential value of the work of Hoover is great, but its worth has already proved itself with startling and dramatic force in present performance. Since the Federal Bureau was given authority to investigate bank robberies there has been a reduction in this crime of 75 per cent. The percentage of convictions secured in cases investigated by the Bureau is 96. In the most recent fiscal year 5,162 convictions were secured. During the past five years for every dollar expended in the operation of the Bureau \$6.33 has been returned to the government in recoveries and savings. In 1932, when Congress passed the Federal Kidnapping Statute, this vicious crime was a national menace, a challenge to the decency of American life. Since that time the Bureau has investigated 178 kidnapping cases. All but two have been solved. In 1939, 20 kidnapping cases were reported to the Bureau. All were solved.

The Federal Bureau has rendered these great services to the American people. Its activities are a part of the great non-political functions of government. As Hoover has kept its personnel and its activity free from political influence, so do we expect that its services for good government will proceed unharrassed by political interference.

In spirit and performance the work of John Edgar Hoover has exemplified the scientific way of life. To the many formal expressions of appreciation which he has received we add to-night that of the National Academy of Sciences for great public service performed in a scientific manner and by the aid of science.

MAX MASON

RESPONSE BY THE MEDALIST

IN accepting the Public Welfare Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, I first want to acknowledge the contributions which this academy has made to the furtherance of science in America. Secondly, I accept this medal, not for myself alone, but also as a tribute to my associates—the patriotic men and women