

if not condone, my insistence that next to man himself—that is, man's unchecked greed, vanity, and fear—disease is man's major enemy, at least until depletion of national resources for industry and insufficient foods loom larger on the distant horizon. As a biologist I deplore the diversion of tens of thousands of competent scientists and such large fortunes in human toil, past, present, and future, to devising better ways to kill and injure our fellow men, better ways to waste and destroy our natural resources by war, because the frontiers of biology and medicine are still so vast. We have scarcely made a dent in the matter of prevention of the hereditary defects of man, of cancer or virus diseases, of the preventable impairments of the aging citizen. It seems stupid to pause to kill and maim our fellow men when there remains so much worthwhile work to do toward developing a healthier, wiser, and happier man of tomorrow.

Unless guile is coequal with integrity in man's survival and progress, it seems obvious that integrity, cooperation, and approximate justice constitute the very warp and woof of the "standard" to which all wise and honest men must repair. We certainly get nowhere with guile in the understanding and control of inanimate nature or in the understanding and control of heredity, health, and disease in living nature. We can, for a time, guide human action by guile and force. Some day our colleagues in the social sciences, by the methods and ethics known to work in the natural sciences, will provide man with data on human behavior which are as reliable and as unavoidable as are the confirmed data of chemistry and physics of today. When that day is here, guile and guess in human relations will surely recede, assuming that man of that era retains present mental capacities.

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## Science Legislation

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### On the Floor of the Senate

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On 19 March the Senate Committee on Military Affairs considered the Kilgore-Magnuson Bill, S. 1850, creating a National Science Foundation, and reported it out of committee. S. 1850 is now on the floor of the Senate.

It has taken seven months to compose a bill that meets the requirements of scientists, government agencies, and the small group of Senators actively interested in science legislation, and to get this bill through committee. Comparable delays in the Senate and in the House can be fatal, for a third of our Senators, and all of our Representatives, are understandably concerned with election problems back home. Congress is not going to remain in session any longer than it must. It certainly will not linger for the purpose of creating a National Science Foundation unless Congressmen know that some of the influential people in their respective districts believe that this is important and enlightened legislation, which should have their support in the present Congress and not a promise of support in the next session.

On 16 March Senator Thomas of Utah, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, addressed a meet-

ing at which 19 of Philadelphia's scientific organizations were represented. Senator Thomas, who is a member of the AAAS, devoted most of his time to a discussion of the significance of S. 1850 when he talked to the representatives of these organizations. Rather pessimistically, he pointed out the preoccupation of Congressmen with problems of re-election and ventured the prediction that S. 1850 can die in the Senate, and will almost surely die in the House—unless scientists show much greater interest than they have up to the present time.

Senator Thomas is so impressed with the wisdom of this bill that he pledged himself to reintroduce it in the next session, if it failed of passage this year. But failure this year means serious delay. It means that the teams of scientists who were at work during the war will become even more dispersed, more difficult to reassemble to pursue the research tasks of peace. Although scientists will appreciate the wholehearted support of Senator Thomas, it was clear from his remarks that they must assume a great deal of the responsibility for the ultimate passage of the bill, and practically all of the responsibility for its passage in this session.