

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Throughout this year there has been much discussion of the significance and quality of scientific research and education in our country. This has led some to recognize that a vigorous, wholesome national life requires more widespread respect for intellectual effort; they have advocated the need and satisfactions of hard mental work. But many have laid the blame for present shortcomings on unrespected, poorly supported teachers and investigators or have sought to satisfy their responsibility for the future of our country by merely advocating greater expenditures for scientific facilities and some for teachers.

More adequate financial support for science is of course essential if science is to flourish as a basic element of our national culture; it is needed to insure the well being of our people and their security against foreign aggression. The financial support provided is no less important as a measure of the value the citizens and government of our country place on science.

There have been buoyant times when Americans have been encouraged to believe they could do all things. That is a pleasant delusion of immaturity. One determinant of a nation's greatness is its courage to choose between the important and the less important. A nation achieves greatness by determined devotion to the things that matter most as it sacrifices the unessential.

During debates on how much our Federal, State, and municipal governments can afford to spend on scientific teaching and research, it is well to remember that the sums provided in the debated budgets represent human effort. How much of the life of the citizens of our country will be devoted to training the minds of our youth, to the discovery of new knowledge and its applications, and to the welfare of mankind depends on the will and wisdom of the people and their elected representatives in

government. If the trivial and unimportant are chosen, there will be less for ennobling, creative efforts.

These are matters which have concerned the National Science Board as they have endeavored to shape the National Science Foundation into an institution for building a better way of life. Our responsibilities far exceed the disbursement of Federal funds and the formulation of Federal programs and policies affecting science. We have the unavoidable opportunity to use our funds and functions as means for encouraging, by example and assistance, countless people and institutions to devote more of their material and intellectual efforts to science. We can thus further science as one of the great adventures of the human mind.

But science is only one of those adventures on the frontiers of the mind and spirit. Science and technology have released great powers for the vast development of a material civilization. Only if scientists vigorously foster the spiritual as well as the material values of science will scientific progress make possible a life that ennobles man and is rewarding.

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