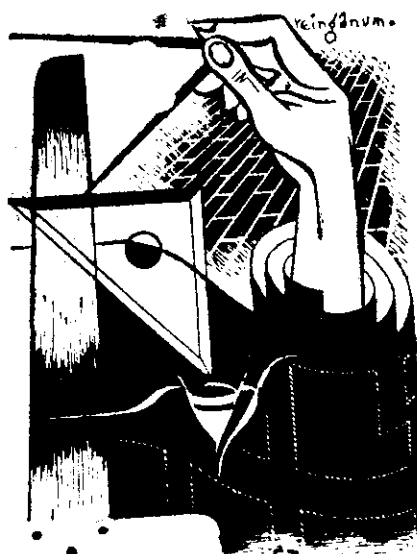


they have raised to men better qualified to solve them?" We cannot go back to our work when we are not convinced that our politicians adequately understand the dangers presented by our achievements, or that they are prepared to take the radical measures required to prevent the destruction of humanity. In the past, scientists have been inarticulate on questions about which they were no more qualified to speak than the next man. However, there are many technical aspects to this present dilemma. We do feel impelled to discuss them. Defence measures, the possibility of development of the atomic bomb in other countries, and the scientific feasibility of international control are examples of subjects to which we have tried to confine ourselves. It cannot be emphasised too strongly, however, that implicit in these technical problems are deeper and more difficult political problems.

We scientists are broadening our perspectives. We not only study quantum mechanics and relativity; we now also study the United Nations Charter and "The Social Function of Science." Where



we previously only perused *Science*, *Nature*, and *The Physical Review*, we now also read the to us equally abstract and baffling *Congressional Record*. Our organisations subscribe to clipping services which inform us of all that is currently printed about nuclear energy. One of our goals is to educate the public. We are availing ourselves of the means of public expression, falteringly at first; but we are becoming more confident. We have explored the possibility of the press release and radio talks; we give speeches before the public whenever we can. We even write articles. In view of the wide geographical separation of the various organisations and the small amount of collaboration which has been obtained until recently, I am amazed at the profound agreement of the public utterances of scientists.

Washington, too, receives our attention. Some of us are called to testify before Senate and House hearings. Some are called to give official advice to the various branches of the administration. Still others are sent as representatives of our organisations to present our point of view, and then to report back on the activities of the Congress.

Considered Judgments

Indeed, there is a new spirit in science. At Los Alamos the Executive Committee

of the A.L.A.S. (Association of Los Alamos Scientists) has daily meetings, and there are weekly general meetings, usually attended by more than five hundred. At these meetings, reports are given and current problems are discussed. Perhaps the most significant feature of the discussion is the obvious sincerity of the members of the group. Technical questions are referred to committees of experts, the foremost scientists in the field. When we say, therefore, that adequate defence against atomic bombs is unlikely, it is because a committee consisting of scientists who came here from the radar development laboratory have considered the problem deeply. When we say there is no scientific secret, we speak the considered judgment of those scientists who actually developed the bomb. When we say another country can develop atomic bombs within a few years, it is again the judgment of those scientists who developed the processes and skills required to manufacture the materials of a bomb.

It may be said that science will suffer because of scientists' preoccupation with world affairs—and undoubtedly it will. Still, unwise political action or inaction can destroy science as we know it. Even more important, it can destroy humanity. I think it probable that political thought may well benefit by the application of the traditional objective spirit of science. We can return wholeheartedly to our work only when we are convinced that our political leaders and the public are truly aware of the revolution in destructive force which we have brought about, and that they are committed to political action adequate to insure world peace.

Revolutionary Methods Needed

The expensive experiment culminating successfully on a desert in New Mexico was an experiment perilous for all concerned. It was a risk of finance, of manpower, of material. It was something new. It was apparent to all of us who participated in that test at Jornada del Muerto that this new power which we had unleashed could not become the plaything of so-called power politics. As the best scientific vision was mobilised for the bomb, so must the best political vision be mobilised for its control. A new revolutionary force demands a revolution in methods of dealing with the problem of peace. It is a problem which cannot be solved in the framework of existing sovereign nations.

Scientists do not think that the atomic bomb is the only problem. It is rather an immediate and dramatic danger that epitomises all of the threats to our security. A new opportunity has presented itself, but this time in terms of real co-operation or total annihilation. World control of the atomic bomb, it must be understood, will only be a step toward peace. The deeper causes of war must be attacked if a true and lasting peace is to be achieved.

I did not need my authors, Messrs. Bernal and Crowther, to inform me that science, which helps to shape society, is in turn shaped by it. The atomic bomb is only another and particularly monstrous product of a warring world. Science can fulfil its functions of being a real benefit to humanity only when nations are at peace. Otherwise scientific endeavour will be perverted to prepare for that next war, that Wellsian war, that fantastic battle of fantastic instruments which will destroy so much—our homes, our science, and ourselves.



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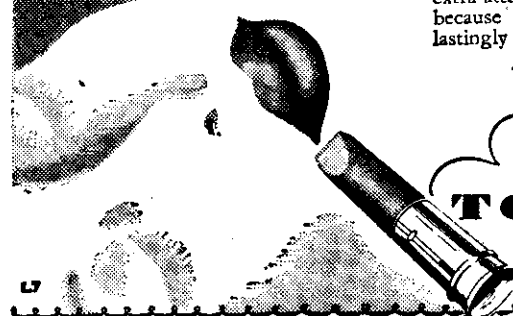
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