

Scientists Say Facts On Atomic Bomb Must Not Be Kept A Secret

WASHINGTON—President Truman's statement that he alone must decide the matter of sharing the atomic bomb's secrets is deeply significant. It may mean he has come to the conclusion the secrets must be shared with all the nations and that the only question is "When?"

That still leaves to congress and the army and navy a tremendous task of development and utilization of atomic energy itself, but the scientists are beginning to revolt. They are beginning to say they will not go along with any program to control the atomic bomb's secrets, that they cannot go along with such an idea. In brief, they say the risk of aggressor nations using the atomic bomb must be guarded against by physical restraints and controls, not by guarding the facts of atomic science as secrets.

This is something those of us who are not scientists have not thought out, but the view of the scientists on the subject is breathtakingly simple. They say that if the secrets of the atomic bomb are not released and science consents to a program of enstaving its knowledge to military and political considerations, then science will wither and die and be swallowed

up in centuries of dark new ages. This is no academic argument to be scoffed at by practical statesmen accustomed to short views. The scientists buttress their case very strongly. They point out that the whole foundation of modern science is intellectual freedom, a freedom that cuts straight across national boundaries. Science cannot exist for long where there is not this freedom for the scientist. Bismarck and even Hitler encouraged such freedom in Germany.

Science had its beginnings in ancient Greece—in the first moments of intellectual freedom mankind ever knew. There developed the beginnings of mathematics, biology, physics, anatomy, chemistry and even of psychology. Then Greek freedom was overwhelmed by Roman authoritarianism. Followed 15 centuries of authoritarian and theocratic rule throughout the world in which there literally was no intellectual life except that given to poetry and speculative moral philosophy. The science of the Greeks was lost and error warped man's view of the world until the Tudor Englishman knew less of the earth and less of man than the Romans of Nero's day.

The first breath of renewed intellectual freedom came in Italy, but it was feeble, so feeble that the amazing discoveries of Leonardo de Vinci came to naught. This 15th Century Florentine understood the principles of the airplane, the submarine, the steam engine, the internal combustion engine, the modern skyscraper, and many other inventions. Not a single one of his ideas was developed!

Elizabeth's England further freed man's spirit, but the scientists say it is no accident that real scientific progress got nowhere until the American and French revolutions freed students of science from governmental and theocratic control all over the

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Take Over Batavia



TROUBLES in Java and Indo-China reached a critical stage as Allies took over Batavia (1) after rebels called for a "holy war" and armed Annamese (2) clashed with British forces over possession of an airport which links Saigon with the outside world. (International)

Declares Farm Incomes Must Be Protected

NEW YORK — Roger Corbett, executive secretary of the American Farm Bureau Federation said that agriculture faces postwar "poverty levels" in prices unless farmers and the government take steps to safeguard agricultural income.

Addressing the executive officers of the northeast regions of the federation, representing 9 states, Mr. Corbett said "under the encouragement of government to meet the war emergency, agriculture has stepped up its production more than one third during the war period."

Mr. Corbett, who formerly was director of agricultural research and director of the extension service at the University of Maryland, said production of almost all agricultural commodities was at "peak level."

He suggested four methods as a means of continuing farm production and prosperity:

1. Sending agricultural supplies to Europe through government or private purchase.
2. Efficient marketing by housewives including a better knowledge of nutrition.
3. A better knowledge of agricultural values on the part of the housewife.
4. Better knowledge by consumers of seasonal and local market gluts so their buying can be adjusted accordingly.

"We hope we will not have to resort to curtailment of production. But we must be in a position to carry out such plans if other support and plans do not succeed," he said.

W. R. Ogg, head of the federation's Washington office, said the federation would "insist" to the administration in Washington that farm price control commitments under the Steagall Act be carried out.

He added that the federation would ask for the liquidation of farm subsidies and an increase in agricultural price ceilings where necessary.

Mr. Ogg said the federation would recommend that the Federal government continue the farm labor program through the next calendar year and reorganize the farm credit system through support of the Flannagan bill.

Introduced by the chairman of the House Agricultural Committee, this bill would reorganize the Farm Credit Administration as an independent agency outside of the Department of Agriculture.

Not at all pleased with the strike situation, the Telfair County, (Georgia) draft board has gone on a "sit down" strike. Feeling that it was unfair to induct boys of 18 who were badly needed on the farms, the board is refusing any further inductions as long as the present strike situation continues.

western world.

As for the atomic bomb's secrets, the scientists say they cut across every field of knowledge. For the bomb is not based on new speculative discoveries made during the war, but on information engineered out of pre-war discoveries. To tie up its secrets would be to dam up almost all the arteries of the great body of modern science — for the life-stream of science is accurate information in great volume. The great destroyer of accurate information, the sovereign creator of error, is secrecy.

So say the scientists, to resort to secrecy about the atomic bomb, we would have to cloak nearly all our major science and engineering in a withering secrecy, and if that happened, our science and the civilization based on it, in a few decades, would become a gangrened zombie. We would enter a new period of dark ages, dark ages more frightful and gloomy than those that shrouded the earth from the time of Julius Caesar to that of George Washington.

OPA To Bar Inflation Of Building Cost

WASHINGTON — The government has set up peacetime barriers against inflation after knocking down some war-time barriers to a free economy.

The OPA prepared to limit rigidly the costs entering into new home building—which opens up Oct. 15—although it cannot put a ceiling on the final price of the house.

These developments marked the further march of reconversion, in business and government.

1. The OPA told retailers—finally and definitely—that wartime increases in manufacturing costs are not to be passed on to the public in the form of higher

prices for new washers, refrigerators and similar long-awaited products.

2. To speed the sale of vast war surpluses, President Truman signed a bill creating a single Administrator of the Surplus Property Board.

3. Another war agency — the Office of Economic Stabilization—was killed off.

4. The Brookings Institution held that "a powerful movement for higher wage rates" is the greatest potential inflation force.

5. Builders estimated that 500,000 new homes would be started next year, with building climbing to 1,000,000 houses annually by 1948.

Strict Materials Control
Chester Bowles, Price Administrator, reportedly was ready to announce stricter price controls on lumber, hardware, plumbing and other building materials.

His plan is to impose dollars-and-cents ceilings, which would be

uniform in every city just as are OPA's ceilings on grocery-store items. Contractors' charges for roof-laying and other building services also would be tightened up.

For people who want to buy new houses, this leaves two notable gaps in price controls: the price of the lot and the price of the completed dwelling.

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