

THE NATION is engaged in warfare, a struggle against the disruptive forces let loose during peace times, an economic battle with poverty in the midst of plenty. It is a war being fought on behalf of the nation by the "new deal."

There is great apprehension in Washington in Uncle Sam's Scientific establishments. The word is being passed along that the ammunition is failing.

Less than a cent of every dollar spent by Uncle Sam in normal years is used in the fruitful battle waged by scientific research. Scientific research activities cost only \$42,000,000 in that peak year of 1932. The appropriations of the last pre-Roose-

velt Congress intended to be used for research in the year beginning July 1 were some \$35,000,000.

But economy is the slogan and the axe of Budget Bureau Director Lewis Douglas is falling heavily. It appears that about \$10,000,000 of the already reduced scientific research funds have been lopped off under President Roosevelt's economy act power conferred by Congress.

To support all the scientific research activities of the Federal departments, which solid figures show return thousands of per cent. profit in public service, only about \$25,000,000 will be available, a reduction of over 30 per cent. from the 1932 funds. Hundreds of researches

will be stopped, hundreds of scientists have been dismissed or have had their already nominal compensation reduced to dangerously low levels. Spirits are being broken, a condition that is even more dangerous than empty stomachs.

Science suffers. For the insects that menace our food supply, for the diseases that threaten our lives, for the industrial gods of waste and ignorance who shiver when scientists investigate, it is a noble victory.

For the next generation, it is dangerous defeat.

The SCIENCE NEWS LETTER presents upon the next five pages some factual information about the science situation in Washington.

GENERAL SCIENCE

Many More Millions for War But Curtailment for Science

"Economy" Slashes Net a Total of \$10,000,000 From Science Budget, While Half a Billion May Go to War

FOR PUBLIC WORKS and other emergency measures to combat the depression, the Federal Government plans to make a capital expenditure of some \$3,600,000,000.

As an "economy" measure, the Federal Government under the economy powers of the President and the Budget Bureau director, is effecting "savings" of \$10,000,000 in the scientific research and service work of the regularly established, permanent bureaus.

Contrast these cross currents under the new deal.

A minor item in the public works program is the construction and modernizing of warships and Navy Yards at the cost of \$354,000,000, an expenditure more than 35 times the "savings" being made in scientific research.

A minor suggested item in the public works program is the mechanization and rehabilitation of the army, estimated to cost about \$200,000,000, which is about 20 times the "savings" in scientific research.

Some \$13,000,000 is urged to be spent from public works funds on "ammunition for the army." This fund to keep our arsenals full of explosives

would more than restore the disastrous "economy" cuts being made in scientific research and service.

War, past and future, has always been the glutton in government cost. In recent years, war, past and future, has absorbed some 70 per cent. of the total expenditures of the Federal Government. Scientific research and service has accounted for only a fraction of one per cent. of the total federal expenditures.

Under the so-called economy program of the Roosevelt administration, the expenditures for scientific research and service are being cut to about sixty per cent. of what they were in the 1932 fiscal year. The millions of dollars poured into military activities, past and future, have suffered no decrease but will be increased greatly according to present indications. It seems probable that at least \$500,000,000 of the public works funds will be devoted to the army and navy, so that in the years of peace 1933-34, the military expenditures of the United States will rise to high levels.

Without any pacifistic discussions of these large military expenditures from

public works funds, it is being argued in scientific circles that the drastic cuts in scientific research and service in the Federal Government departments are fully as dangerous to Uncle Sam's military establishment as actual curtailments in military funds would be.

At the outbreak of the World War, the National Bureau of Standards, the nation's greatest scientific bureau, practically became a military bureau, for example.

If the cuts in scientific research to the extent of \$10,000,000 could be restored by the assignment of public works funds to this purpose, and if further another \$10,000,000 were made available for the emergency employment of unemployed scientists, estimated to number 10,000 to 15,000 throughout the nation, the advocates of scientific preparedness feel that this investment of public works funds in science would be in the long-run far more fruitful than an equivalent expenditure of money for purely military purposes.

Science News Letter, July 15, 1933

GENERAL SCIENCE

Need Public Works Funds To Restore Science Work

A FEW MILLIONS of dollars of the \$3,300,000,000 public works funds are being sought by government bureaus in order that the harm to the Government's scientific research work done by "economy" cuts will in part be mitigated.

Secretary of Commerce Roper has announced applications to the Public Works Board for grants that include: