

violate basic principles which make for responsible government.

"There are other compelling reasons why control over the administration of this law should not be vested in the part time members of the Foundation.

"Adherence to the principle that responsibility for the administration of the law should be vested in full time officers who can be held accountable will not prevent the Government from utilizing with great advantage the services of eminent scientists who are available only for part time duty.

"It is unfortunate that this legislation cannot be approved in its present form. The withholding of my signature at this time, however, will not prevent the Government from engaging in the support of scientific research.

"We must start with a law which is basically sound.

"I hope that the Congress will reconsider this question and enact such a law early in its next session."

From National Research Council:

Excerpts from Statement by Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, Chairman, National Research Council.

"The President has rightly said that national security and welfare require that direct federal support be given to basic scientific research and to increasing the number of trained scientists. Accordingly, it is regrettable that differences of opinion between the legislative and executive branches of the government regarding administrative policies have barred the creation of a National Science Foundation, which would have fostered scientific research throughout the country to the general advantage of the American people.

"The need for such a foundation is great at the present time when universities are hard-pressed for funds with which to carry on essential research and when the ranks of adequately trained scientists are seriously depleted.

"Scientists generally will therefore hope that these needs may be met by the passage of legislation in the next Congress which will satisfy both Congress and those concerned with executive function and which will preserve the traditional freedom of the scientific investigator."

Senator Smith's Opinion:

"It is a great regret to me that the President has made a 'political football' out of what undoubtedly would have

been the greatest contribution made in this country by any Congress since the turn of the century. I believe the cause of science has been set back 10 years by his action," states Sen. H. Alexander Smith, Rep., N. J.

National Academy Head:

Comment on veto by Dr. Alfred N. Richards, president of the National Academy of Sciences:

"Too bad."

Dr. Karl T. Compton States:

"The veto of the National Science Foundation Bill is disappointing at a time when help and encouragement are needed. Practically everyone agrees that the universities and colleges cannot contribute their part in meeting the post-war scientific needs of the country on their prewar basis of financial support, and everyone knows that national security and prosperity require assiduous attention to science and the training of scientists.

"I believe the President was poorly advised on this action. I believe that the values of getting the program going promptly outweigh the objections to the form of the bill, which could be corrected later if in practice they proved serious." Dr. Compton is president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Science News Letter, August 16, 1947

PHYSICS

Very Accurate Gauges Ground from Spheres

➤ GAUGES for highly accurate measurement of bore-holes are the subject of patent 2,423,094, issued to Dr. I. C. Gardner of the National Bureau of Standards. It is relatively easy to grind spheres of precisely known diameter from such hard stones as agate or from hard glass or fused quartz. From such spheres, cylinders or polygonal prisms may be cut, each retaining at its opposite ends a part of the original, accurately determined diameter. These constitute the gauges. Rights to manufacture and use are assigned royalty-free to the government.

Science News Letter, August 16, 1947

The Iowa cornfield thrives partly because its *calcium* content was high to begin with; the lime came from limestone ledges, ground in the great mill of the Ice Age glaciers or more recently weathered into soil.

CHEMISTRY

Stable Plastic from Rosin

➤ ROSIN is polymerized into a firm, chemically stable plastic of high melting-point through the use of the bromine or chlorine salts of mercury as catalysts, in the process on which B. L. Hampton of Jacksonville, Fla., has been granted patent 2,424,979. These catalysts replace the halides of tin and zinc used in an earlier process. Patent rights are assigned to the Glidden Company of Cleveland.

Science News Letter, August 16, 1947

Male otters when startled make a noise that resembles the "barking" of a sea lion.

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