

**THEORY ORIGINATOR**—Charles Darwin, author of the book "The Origin of the Species", first presented evidence for the evolution theory. He traveled around the world in his ship, "Beagle", to collect his evidence.

They see a tendency to restrict the freedom of scientists in the loyalty oaths some universities are asking of teachers, loyalty oaths much more strict than those asked of ordinary government employees. They see a threat in the fact that the House of Representatives could vote into the National Science Foundation bill loyalty provisions which, in the opinion of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, "would constitute a clear departure from accepted fundamental theories of American government and lay a foundation for criticism of the Bureau as a state police organization."

They think that the tendency of government agencies to classify more and more documents not only hampers science in its job of discovering new knowledge, but also keeps from the people things which they should know.

More important, they are wondering about an attitude which they think might be developing in this country—an attitude which tends to reject science and scientists. They think they see a fear of what science has wrought, a fear which is expressed in the acceptance of fantastic theories about the earth and the skies.

Twenty-five years ago, when Clarence Darrow placed William Jennings Bryan on the witness stand, he asked Bryan whether he really believed that Joshua made the sun stand still. Bryan said he did. He was scoffed at and, some say, as a result of that duel between the agnostic and the fundamentalist, he died a few days later.

But today, national magazines are presenting to the people a theory that the sun actually did stand still—or at least the earth stopped revolving—when Joshua asked it

to do so. This time it is not explained by the will of God, but by a theory concerning the actions of the planet Venus, a theory which is almost unanimously rejected by scientists.

Are scientists mobilizing today against these various threats as they did 25 years ago? Dr. Meyerhoff doesn't see enough evidence of mobilization. He says that most scientists are too anxious to stay within their own fields. But, he says, they'll have to join together and take action if they are to defend their own freedom and, ultimately, the people's freedom.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1950

**ENGINEERING**

**Auto Diesel Engine To Power Indianapolis Racer**

➤ A NEW lightweight diesel engine, designed for use in automobiles, will be used to power a car in the Indianapolis "500" automobile race classic this summer, it was revealed in Columbus, Ind., by Cummins Engine Company, Inc.

The new engine has been in use during the past few months in limited numbers in highway trucks. The particular one to be used in the racer is a highly supercharged version. It is a four-cylinder affair with a piston stroke of 401 cubic inches. It is capable of turning up to 4,000 revolutions per minute. It is now undergoing various tests.

Science News Letter, April 29, 1950



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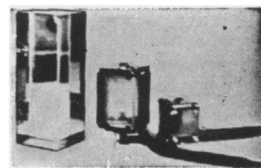
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