Dr. Conant's statement—to appear as an article in a forthcoming issue of a national magazine—is expected to raise a storm of controversy in scientific, educational and government manpower circles. Copies have been circulated among some of these people already and discussion is widespread.

It is in direct conflict with a plan sponsored by Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey for deferment of some college students. This plan, which has received much support from scientists and educators, would establish a nationwide college aptitude test. Young men who received high marks on this test would be permitted to enter college. They could stay there so long as they remained in the upper portion of their class.

Another college president, Dr. Leonard Carmichael of Tufts, Medford, Mass., told Science Service that he could not approve Universal Military Service at 18 for everybody. Dr. Carmichael was in charge of the National Scientific Roster during the war, and thus kept track of all scientific, technical and engineering personnel.

"If we have UMS," said Dr. Carmichael, "all individuals should serve at some one time in their lives. However, a certain segment of young men, chosen on the basis of a test and state quotas, should be given the option of going to college to receive training.

"If everybody is drafted at 18," he went on, "the men who go to college afterwards may be subject to a second draft and a second period of service. This is likely because the Armed Forces will need college-trained men such as doctors, scientists and engineers."

Science News Letter, November 25, 1950

ANTHROPOLOGY

How Ancient Is American?

Tools found in gravel pit with 750,000-year-old fossils but scientists are divided in opinion as to whether human artifacts are equally old.

➤ DID man first reach America from Asia 750,000 years ago, instead of a mere 10,000 to 12,000 years ago?

Scientists disagree vehemently on the evidence of a sand and gravel pit near Frederick, Okla. There, amidst the remains of long-extinct animals, ancient flint and stone artifacts, tools of human habitation, have been found.

There is sharply divided opinion on whether the tools and animal fossils come from the same geologic age, Dr. Grayson E. Meade of Texas Technological College said in a paper before the Paleontological Society of America meeting in Washington.

Without entering the controversy, Dr. Meade described fossil animal remains found in the Holloman sand pit. During Aftonian time, close to the beginning of the Ice Age, the area was the home of elephants, wild camels, and lions found today only in Africa and Asia.

The age of these fossils has been definitely established as about 750,000 years.

The Texas geologist claimed no knowledge of the authenticity of the human evidence in the Holloman pit.

However, he said that those who believe the artifacts and animal fossils were buried in the same dim age consider the Holloman site "by far the oldest known evidence of man in North America."

It has been generally accepted by anthropologists that North and South America were peopled by migrants from Asia who arrived about 10,000 years ago, Dr. E. H. Sellards, director of the Texas Memorial Museum, said in another paper.

Excavations during the past two years in an ancient New Mexico lake bed have turned up a new plains culture even older than the shadowy "Folsom Man" discovered in the 1920's, Dr. Sellards said. To this new culture has been given the name Llano. Implements and weapons made of bone and stone have been found, he said, which suggest that these people hunted elephants.

The geologic layer in which these artifacts were found suggests that the Llano culture is approximately 10,000 years old, dating from the retreat of the last North American ice cap.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1950

MINERALOGY

Petalite Is Promising For Rocket Engines

➤ A MINERAL called petalite is producing new industrial ceramics able to stand up under temperatures as high as 2192 degrees Fahrenheit.

Studies of the quartz-like material, known for over a century but never utilized, have been accelerated with the advent of jet and rocket engines, John D. Clark, a Philadelphia engineer, reported.

Such engines, which must withstand towering temperatures, brought a bottleneck in materials able to shrug off a phenomenon known as "heat shock." Petalite, containing lithium, aluminum and silicates, was discovered to be even tougher than pure fused silica in its heat shock properties.

Mr. Clark predicts wide use of the long-neglected mineral, ranging from heat-resistant cooking dishes to the fittings used in ceramic firing kilns.

Lithium was discovered from petalite in 1818. There are deposits in Sweden but they are not extensively worked. In the late 1930's and early 1940's, huge blocks of petalite were found in quarries in South West Africa. There are no commercial deposits in the United States, and the mineral has to be shipped in from Africa.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1950

MINERALOGY

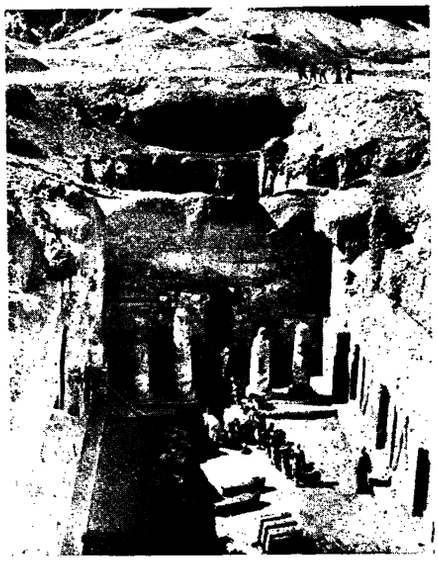
Big Sparkling Stones No Good for Necklace

➤ LARGE, sparkling stones—false gems that rival emeralds or sapphires in their color and luster, are now on exhibit at the U. S. National Museum.

The collection was gathered over many years from the copper-mining district of the former German southwest African region. Except for their softness, these crystals might well become supergems for decorative necklaces and pins.

The crystals, of lead or copper mixed with carbon or sulfur, are formed from such minerals as lead carbonate, carbonated copper and copper silicate. The minerals are formed by percolating waters and occur in cavities in the upper layers of copper deposits.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1950



ROYAL TOMB—Burial palace of the Prince of Thebes as it looks today. Openings on right and left lead down to the burial chambers of the "Mentemhet family." Note how covering layers have accumulated above. The finding was made near the famous Valley of the Kings near Luxor, Egypt.