

GENERAL SCIENCE

Remarks at Talent Search

By CHARLES E. SCRIPPS

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► I AM PROUD to be here associated with SCIENCE SERVICE and with our partners in the Science Talent Search, our friends from Westinghouse. I am proud, too, of my wisdom in the choice of a grandfather. When I looked around for someone to be my grandfather, I found a very interesting gentleman who had started a wonderful outfit called SCIENCE SERVICE, and I did not think I could do any better than that. . .

Since I have a captive audience, for a few minutes, I am going to do what any speaker in his right mind would do. I am going to talk about something that interests me.

The other day I read a nice thing that seems to have stuck in my mind. It goes like this: "There can be no such thing as freedom unless it be freedom to live by a moral law."

What does this imply for the world of science, indeed for all of us? But we are concerned tonight with science and scientists. We have seen in recent years two major or even gigantic scientific campaigns. Never in history has there been anything like them. I am speaking, of course, of the campaigns to harness atomic energy and to conquer space.

This method of marshaling very large forces and mounting a major campaign to solve certain scientific and engineering problems is a very new thing. Perhaps the discovery of how to do this effectively and efficiently will in the long run be just as important to mankind as the scientific developments themselves.

In spite of the great advances in scientific and engineering achievement that have been made in recent years, we live in a world that is still horribly burdened with human misery and human degradation.

For centuries man has sought to ameliorate human misery and human degradation in the political arena, through religion, education, medicine and charity.

Through science and engineering we have learned how to permit man to exist in that most hostile environment—space. We are about to make the surface of the moon a place where men can exist in safety and reasonable comfort. Still there are millions of people to whom the surface of the earth is barely tolerable, or worse.

It is speedily becoming apparent that our world cannot continue to exist one part in extreme poverty and another part in comfort. The question I wish to leave with you tonight is whether we are ready now to mount a major campaign against human misery and human degradation. Can we marshal a wide variety of skills, a full range of the scientific, engineering and social disciplines, and mount a major campaign to conquer human misery and human degradation? Have we reached the time in the

development and management of our scientific resources when we can hope to win such a campaign?

If I could hope for no more than that you, our Science Talent Search finalists, would commit yourselves to spend an important part of your time and talent to the consideration of such a campaign, I would feel that I had indeed exhibited remarkable wisdom in the selection of a grandfather, and I would feel that our friends with Westinghouse have made it possible for me to hope that my children and grandchildren may live in a civilized society.

By CHARLES H. WEAVER

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Atomic, Defense and Space Group
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► FOR 23 YEARS NOW, we at Westinghouse have watched the Science Talent Search grow from a new and rather bold idea into a program that has touched the lives of more than 400,000 promising young people among the nation's high school seniors. Of these 400,000 who have entered this competition, literally thousands of would-be scientists and engineers have been assured of a college education, simply because of the recognition that comes from reasonable success in the Science Talent Search. The influence of this program indeed extends far beyond the 920 winners that have gathered here in Washington on this annual occasion. . .

To you 40 winners, I offer our sincere congratulations. Tonight you join an illustrious group of alumni who have preceded you here since 1942. And, as I think back to that year and those first 40 winners, I can't help but reflect for a moment on the different kind of scientific world they represented.

At the time of that first Awards Dinner, the first sustained nuclear reaction, generating one-half watt of electric power, was still some nine months away. Today, hundreds of millions of kilowatts of atom-generated electricity pour into homes and factories throughout the world. Those 1942 winners were four years ahead of the first electronic computer; they were six years before the transistor, 13 years before polio vaccine, 15 years before the first earth satellite. The projects submitted by the winners that year could make no reference to lasers, to DNA, to a dozen man-made elements, to color television, to man in space, or to a multitude of other developments that now are part of the scientific inheritance of you 40 winners here tonight.

I cite these statistics to remind you young people that the scientific world you are entering has been largely reconstructed during the time you have spent in reaching this beginning of your careers. It should be a sobering thought to realize that during your professional lifetime, this world will—far more profoundly—be reconstructed again. . .

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