

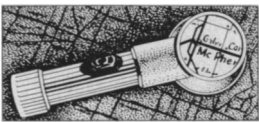
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## GENERAL SCIENCE

### National Chamber Fears Federal Research Role

► THE DOMINANT ROLE of the Federal Government in the nation's research and development effort is seen as a force with the potential of distorting the economy and stunting economic growth.

This concern is expressed in a study by the Committee on Science and Technology of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. To eliminate the threat, the study group would have the private sector support more research than it does now.

The committee is composed of 16 corporate executives under the chairmanship of Michael Michaelis, Arthur D. Little Inc., of Washington.

The report states that the Federal Government supports directly almost three-fourths of the total research and development expenditures, now running at about \$20 billion annually. The "over-riding concern," it says, is that economic growth is "suffering from lack of adequate technical innovation in industry and commerce."

The committee maintains that it is not yet possible to measure the "magnitude of possible distortions" that may be caused by the Government's role.

"Nonetheless, we suggest that any such effects would be lessened to the extent that the forces of a free market economy could stimulate the private sector itself to support more research and development than it does now."

One way to accomplish this, in the view of the committee, is to stimulate more public discussions and participation in decisions of research programs. Another is a list of guidelines proposed by the Chamber of Commerce for the Government in making decisions to support projects. These include the specific goal sought, the justification of the cost and who could do the project if the Government does not.

• Science News Letter, 87:52 January 23, 1965

## GENERAL SCIENCE

### International Science Congresses Too Large

► MOST INTERNATIONAL science congresses have become so large that the objective of exchanging scientific information has been lost.

Dr. Irvine H. Page, of the research division, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, writing in Science, 146:1001, 1964, urges experimentation and new methods for running international meetings. He favors small international clubs that would be organized to exchange information in fast-moving fields of science and research.

When large congresses are necessary, sessions where many papers are presented orally that might just as easily be distributed as written communications, should be avoided, said Dr. Page. Scheduling visits with leading researchers at times other than the cocktail hour would be a part of this plan for new international meetings.

• Science News Letter, 87:52 January 23, 1965

# Questions

AGRICULTURE—What plant is usually attacked by a species of European weevil found for the first time in the United States? p. 63.

CHEMISTRY—In what food products is a by-product of giant brown kelp used? p. 57.

GENERAL SCIENCE—How much of the research in this country is supported by the Federal Government? p. 52.

MEDICINE—What is the major advantage of the new drug, Lincocin? p. 55.

PALEONTOLOGY—Of what scientific value are the bones of the latest fossil mammal found in California? p. 53.

PSYCHOLOGY—What percentage of children suffer from dyslexia? p. 61.

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