

# Haskins Speaks Out

Congressional scuttling of the Mohole project has done "real damage to the research effort of the nation," according to Caryl P. Haskins, president of the Carnegie Institution.

Worse, it is a symptom of "an absence of adequate public understanding." The climate of opinion, he writes, has "grown increasingly skeptical of the values of 'non-practical' research." He also cites "pressures on the National Science Foundation to orient its philosophy more fully toward practical work."

In the Institution's President's Report, Dr. Haskins states that the public has a tendency to confuse science with technology, and that, through the Congress, may cause the slacking of pure research in favor of application.

"There is serious risk that . . . pressures to cut off support of fundamental work, however basic and important it may be in the long term, in favor of the retention of the immediately obvious may mount to the point of irre-

sponsibility," Dr. Haskins says.

Pointing to Project Mohole as an example, he writes: "Despite a far from satisfactory start, Project Mohole had recently been much more consistently planned, and was well advanced toward launching. . . . The enterprise was not designed as an isolated effort, but rather as the first in a long series of continuing explorations of the structure of the interior of the earth. Although an immediate objective was to be the first probing of the Mohorovicic discontinuity between the earth's crust and mantle, long known but hitherto only indirectly investigated, potential benefits both to knowledge and of a more practical tenor could go far beyond this. New findings concerning the ancient history of the earth, concerning the origin and very early evolution of life, concerning the history and fates of continents over long periods of time, concerning submarine geological processes, all could provide a veritable mine of novel information.

"At a more practical level, it is worth recalling that the resources surely locked within the oceans could amount to major treasure. They will be open in the future primarily to those with the initiative and the resource to find and exploit them. This troubling public action seems to offer a particularly dramatic warning of the gaps and the instabilities that still may be inherent in our social scientific revolution."

Among the increasing attacks on basic research and its funding being mounted in Washington, Dr. Haskins raises a lonely voice. But it is eloquent. Dr. Haskins states:

"The 'universalization' of the scientific view that we are experiencing carries with it special dangers. It may, for instance, be accompanied by a 'secularization' of viewpoint on scientific matters, a taking for granted of scientific discovery and the scientific way, a widespread dimming of the wonder and accompanying verve that have so long nourished our best scientific enterprises.

"If such loss of wonder and sense of adventure were to occur in considerable degree, it could carry the serious danger of a consequent regression, rather than a further enlargement, of our understanding and appreciation of scientific needs and scientific quality. Unless we are well aware of this possibility and resist it with tenacity such reverses could foster in turn a trend toward dilution of scientific quality at the operating frontiers of science itself."

## SCIENCE NEWS

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 90

December 24, 1966

No. 26

E. G. SHERBURNE JR., Editor

Watson Davis, Director Emeritus, Editor, 1922-66

WARREN KORNBERG, Managing Editor

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. NOth 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50. Special trial offer for new subscribers only: 41 weeks, \$3.13. Ten or more copies in one package to one address, 7½ cents per copy per week; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip code.

Copyright © 1966 by Science Service, Inc. Republication of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicated services issued by Science Service. Science Service also produces and distributes THINGS of science (monthly), \$5.00 per year; produces and publishes books and conducts the National Science Youth Program.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C. Established in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U. S. and Canadian Patent offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation.

### SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Wallace R. Brode,\*\*\* Washington, D.C.; Bowen C. Dees, National Science Foundation; Athelstan F. Spillhaus, University of Minnesota. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; Detlev W. Bronk, Rockefeller Institute; Henry Allen Moe, The Clark Foundation. Nominated by the National Research Council: Leonard Carmichael, National Geographic Society; Eric A. Walker, Pennsylvania State University; Glenn T. Seaborg\*, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Nominated by the Journalistic Profession: Gordon B. Fister, Allentown (Pa.) Call-Chronicle; Ralph B. Curry, Flint Journal; O. W. Riegel,\*\*\*\* Washington and Lee University. Nominated by the Scripps Estate: Ludwell Denny, Scripps-Howard Newspapers; Edward W. Scripps II,\*\* Edward W. Scripps Trust; \*President, \*\*Vice President, \*\*\*Treasurer, \*\*\*\*Secretary.

Staff—Director: E. G. Sherburne Jr. Assistant Director: Dorothy Schriver. Writers: Carl Behrens, Barbara Culliton, Jonathan Eberhart, Ann Ewing, Faye Marley, Patricia McBroom, Frank Sartwell, Barbara Tufty, Judith Vorst, Ruby Yoshioka. Magazine Production: Marilyn Raleigh. Science Youth Division: Joseph H. Krauss, Lloyd Ulmer. Photography: Fremont Davis. Circulation Manager: Marcia Nelson. Syndicate Sales: Forrest L. Snakenberg. Librarian: Margit Friedrich.

### ADVERTISING

Louis D. Young, Advertising Director, SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Telephone 202-667-8945.

Advertising Representatives: SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS. General Advertising Department: 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., TN 7-5000; 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., SU 7-3355; 800 Broadway, Suite 1100, Cincinnati, Ohio, 721-1254; Suite 211, Braniff Building, Dallas, Texas, FL 7-3847; 908 E. Northland Tower, Southfield, Michigan, 444-4595; 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., OL 3-0026; Room 1522, Philadelphia National Bank Building, Philadelphia, Pa., LO 3-6275; Central Tower Building, 703 Market St., San Francisco, Calif., GA 1-5187.

When is a pen not a pen?



When it lights as it writes like the **LUMIwriter**

Imagine . . . take a quality ball point pen, design a spot light into it and you have — the LumiWriter — a never-failing pen . . . that can see its way in the dark.

Who needs it?

- DOCTORS for writing in darkened wards
- THEATERGOERS to make notes in program
- MILITARY for briefings and debriefings
- MEN-ABOUT-TOWN to sign check in dim bistros
- MIDNIGHT THINKERS to jot down sudden brainstorm
- GIFT GIVERS who need a bright idea
- EVERYONE who needs to write and see in the dark

The LumiWriter is perfectly balanced and beautifully finished in gold anodized aluminum. It comes with four spare ink cartridges in assorted colors. Absolute satisfaction or full refund.

— INSTANT ORDER BLANK — SN 1224

HAVERHILL'S, 526 Washington, San Francisco, Cal.

Please rush \_\_\_\_\_ LumiWriters. My check is enclosed.

Price: \$4.90 (3 for \$14, 6 for \$27, 12 for \$50)

Add \$1 for post. & insur. (Calif. resid. add 4% tax)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

© 1966 **Haverhill's** Searching the World to bring you the Finest