

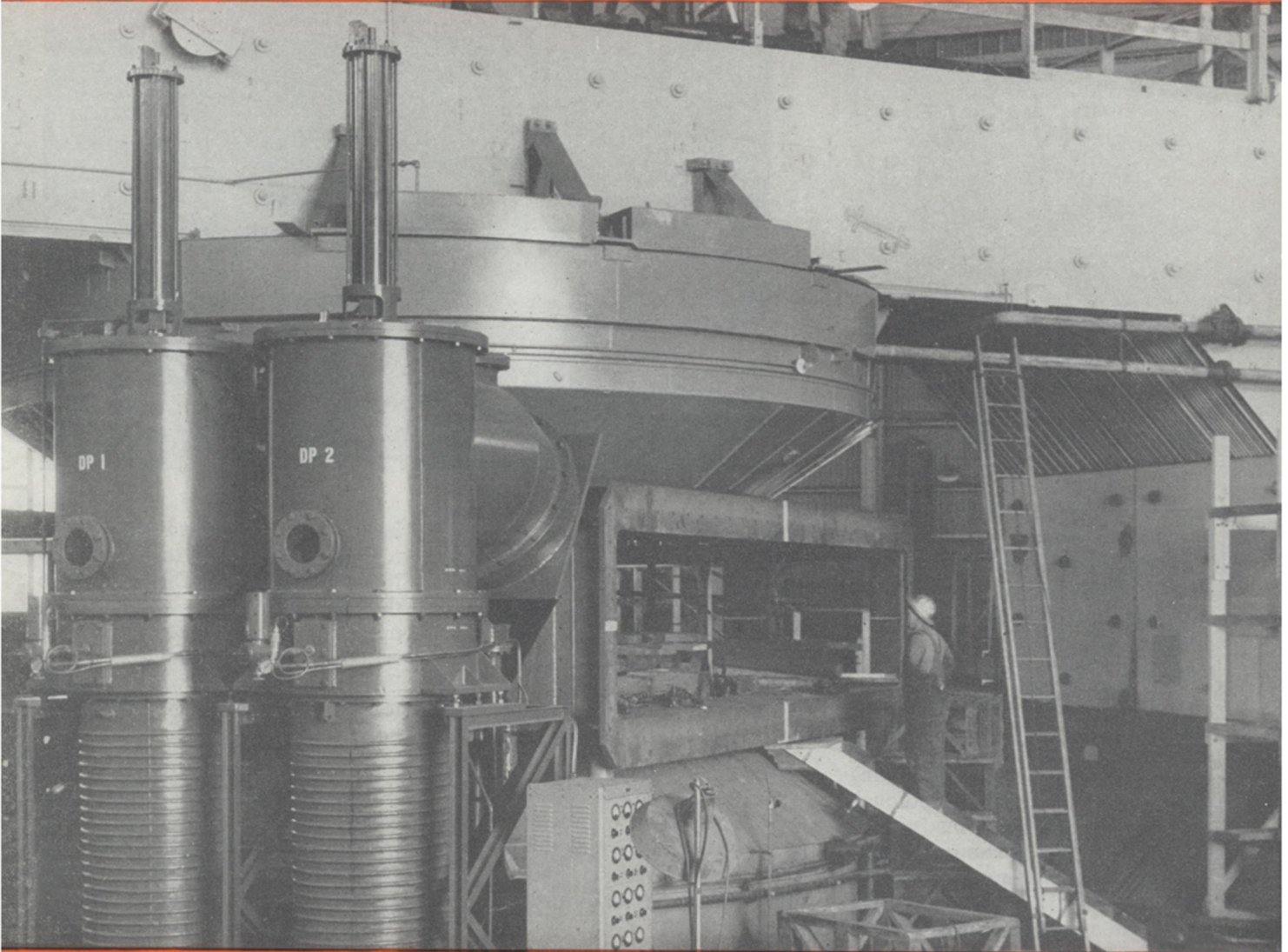
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# SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

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## Giant Atom Smasher

See Page 308

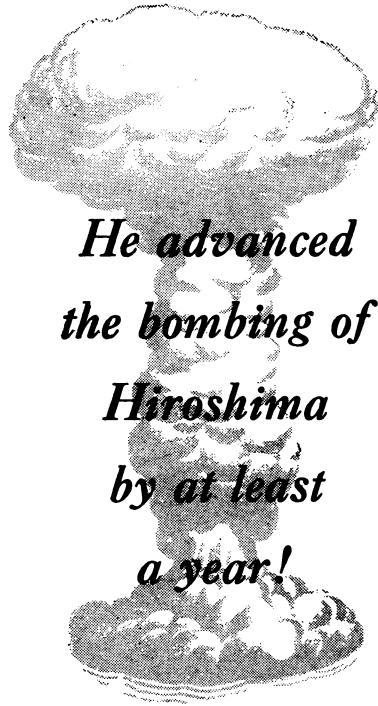
A SCIENCE SERVICE PUBLICATION

1921

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

1946





*He advanced  
the bombing of  
Hiroshima  
by at least  
a year!*

This is a “now it can be told” story of wartime research.

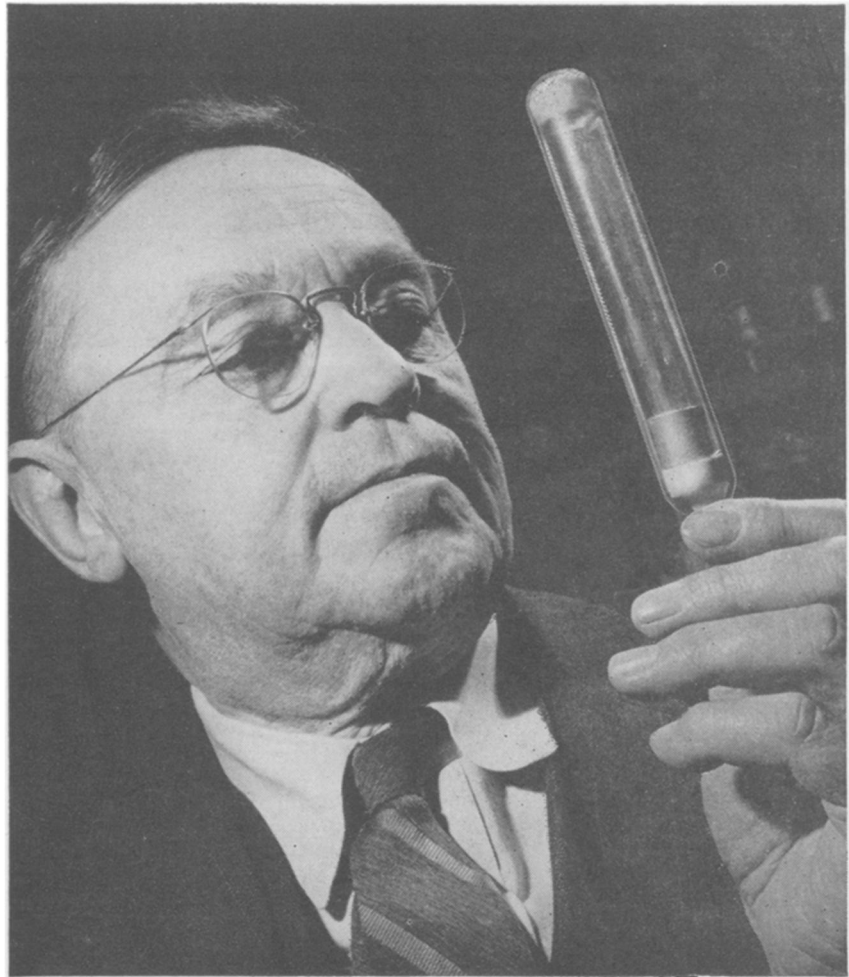
It started back in post World War I days when Dr. Harvey C. Rentschler, Director of Research for the Westinghouse Lamp Division, and Dr. J. W. Marden, an associate, decided to determine the melting point of a rare mineral . . . *uranium*.

In his unending search for an improved electric lamp filament, Dr. Rentschler wanted to find out if *uranium* would give better service than *tungsten*.

So Dr. Rentschler and his associates worked for about a year before they found a way to make pellets of pure uranium from which the melting point could be determined. Although uranium's melting point made it unsatisfactory for a lamp filament, Westinghouse continued to supply tiny amounts of the precious metal to colleges and research laboratories for experiments in nuclear physics.

**(Little did they realize that their know-how would one day give America a head start in the race towards history's grimmest goal!)**

For the most devastating war of all time had meanwhile blazed throughout the world—and scientists in many countries were feverishly trying to



discover a method for unleashing the incredible energy concealed within the atom.

Then, early in 1942, Dr. Rentschler received a telephone call. The director of the atomic experimentation project at the University of Chicago wanted to know how soon Westinghouse could supply *three tons of pure uranium!*

Dr. Rentschler and his co-workers immediately went into action. They set up a miniature uranium “factory” in the Lamp Division laboratory—ultimately increasing their production of pure uranium from 8 *ounces to 500 pounds daily*, cutting its cost from \$1,000 to \$22 *a pound*.

And within a few months, Westing-

house had supplied *more than three tons* of the vital metal to the Chicago Metallurgical Project Office . . . where the famous “atomic pile” experiments were conducted. They also supplied uranium to physicists at Princeton University who did much to the pioneering work on the atomic bomb.

. . . . It all started as an obscure experiment to find a *better* lamp filament—like many another quest for product improvement that goes on constantly in the great Westinghouse research laboratories.

**But, today, Dr. Rentschler's work of 20 years ago is given full credit for advancing America's atomic bomb activities by at least a year!**

**Westinghouse**  
PLANTS IN 25 CITIES OFFICES EVERYWHERE

Tune in: TED MALONE—Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:45 am, EST, American Network