

MILITARY SCIENCE

Use of Scientific Ability

A stop-gap program to rescue valuable scientists from mobilization is in progress. Our scientific talent must be used to best advantage.

➤ MANY of the great industrial laboratories upon which this nation depends for its scientific edge over the enemy might well be stripped of the bulk of their brightest young scientists under the present partial mobilization. Even research efforts by civilians employed by the armed forces stand in danger.

There is no government plan to prevent that now, Science Service has learned. An example of the problem is the fact that 32% of the scientists in the great Westinghouse laboratories are in the nation's military reserves.

Government officials, including those in the Defense Department who recognize the value of proper use of our scientific talent pool, and manpower experts of the National Security Resources Board are now working on a stop-gap program to rescue some of these valuable scientists from the present partial mobilization. Other government officials hope to persuade the Selective Service System to adopt a plan which was first discussed three years ago whereby scientifically trained personnel might be used to best advantage in our defense effort.

There are two sides to the coin of scientific talent. On the one hand, some scientific personnel should be withheld from the armed forces because they can be best used in civilian jobs—as physicists were used as civilians to develop the A-bomb in the last war. On the other hand, scientists who cannot pass the physical tests set up by the armed forces can in many instances be used to best advantage in uniform behind the lines.

There are at present more than 2,000,000 men and women in the nation's military reserves. Those who know—scientists and manpower specialists—say that a significant proportion of our scientific talent is among those 2,000,000. The danger is that many of those young scientists are in the reserves for the wrong reason. Some of them were in a college ROTC unit and there received training and classification in military fields unrelated to their scholastic specialties.

Others hold reserve commissions based on their World War II experiences and now have gone far beyond that to achieve their Ph.D.'s in fields more useful to the defense effort.

We have only now begun to fill to an adequate level the scientific talent reservoir which was drained by World War II. In 1950, for the first time since the war, there is one job for every graduating Ph.D. Two years ago there were approximately six

jobs for every newly made Ph.D. It must be remembered that this scientific reservoir has only been filled to a level adequate for peacetime.

Government manpower specialists and leading scientists outside the government—even while a stop-gap plan is only now being formulated—hope the government will provide a long term program for the proper

ENGINEERING

Dual-Purpose Vehicle

➤ A NEW vehicle that does the work of a light tractor, but which can be used on the highway for business or pleasure driving, was revealed in Cincinnati, Ohio, by Crosley Motors, Inc. It is designed particularly for small farmers who can not afford separate farm tractors and road cars. On the highway, it can travel up to 60 miles an hour.

As a farm tractor, it can be used to plow, cultivate, saw wood, spray crops or to pull a trailer wagon. For the highway the standard equipment includes a two-passenger main body to which a quickly attachable pick-up body may be added for additional passengers or for cargo.

utilization of our scientific personnel. They see a need for:

1. A method of taking away from local selective service boards and putting in the hands of a competent national board the decision whether scientists and students of science shall be inducted in the armed forces.

2. A method, on the national level, of allocating scientists in the military reserves to the jobs, military or civilian, where they will best help the national emergency effort.

3. A method, planned and carried through by men who understand science's role in these days of a most scientific war, of allocating the nation's scientific talent where it will do the most good.

None of these has yet been done.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950

Two factors of importance in this new Crosley "FarmOroad" is its small size and its low price. In general appearances, it resembles somewhat the front part of the familiar military jeep. Its wheel-base is only 63 inches. With top and windshield down, it is 45 inches high. It will sell for approximately \$800 at the Marion, Ind., factory where it is made.

This tractor-roadster weighs only 1100 pounds but has power enough to pull a ten-inch plow through tough soil. The secret of this is its 26.5-horsepower Crosley engine and special gear system. It has six speeds forward and two in reverse.

Science News Letter, July 29, 1950



DOUBLE DUTY—This versatile vehicle is an answer to the farmer's need for a machine that will do a light tractor's work and provide transportation too. This photo shows a 10-inch plow mounted on a hydraulic lift. Harrow, cultivator and other implements are also available.