

GENERAL SCIENCE

Scientists for NATO

► INTERNATIONAL science scholarships, summer study institutes, and annual mathematics and science competitions with awards for teachers and students in secondary schools throughout NATO countries will be proposed at the Nov. 11 NATO meeting of the Conference of Members of Parliament.

Long-range plans include establishment of a NATO university that would draw its faculty and students from the finest minds in Europe and America.

A special NATO Committee on Scientific and Technical Manpower was set up at the Conference meeting in Paris last November. Senator Henry M. Jackson (D.-Wash.) was chairman of the meeting.

Sen. Jackson formed an American Advisory Group, inviting some of the country's outstanding educators, scientists and business men to assist in preparing recommendations for consideration of the Committee.

The Committee includes, among others, Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, president, National Academy of Sciences; Dr. J. R. Killian, president, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Edward Teller of the University of California's Radiation Laboratory; Brig. Gen. David Sarnoff, chairman of the board,

Radio Corporation of America; Eric Johnston, president, Motion Picture Association, and Dr. John A. Wheeler, Princeton University physics professor, chairman of the Advisory Group.

Two hundred more Ph.D.'s each year in critical fields would be the goal of the proposed NATO scholarship program. Greater numbers of summer study institutes, both in the United States and Europe, sponsored by universities and industry, are also recommended in Senator Jackson's report.

To stimulate greater interest and effort in mathematics and science, the suggested international competitions would award prizes on the basis of examinations. Winning students and their teachers would share the prizes, with the larger portion of the awards money going to the teacher.

These immediate steps would be at least temporarily financed by NATO funds, with private industry contributing instructors and experience to the international educational program.

Basic purpose of the plan is to provide maximum opportunity for developing scientific ability.

Science News Letter, October 12, 1957

GENERAL SCIENCE

Federal Work Rates High

► A CAREER in Government for scientists is one of the "most challenging and potentially rewarding," Dr. Allen V. Astin, director of the National Bureau of Standards, told the American Physical Society meeting in Boulder, Colo.

He said his 25 years of Federal service "had more general social value and somewhat more scientific value" than might have been possible outside the Government. The people who emphasize cases where scientists have suffered on the Federal payroll are doing the Government a disservice, Dr. Astin charged.

He said this "knowing full well the implications of this statement in relation to my own personal history." Dr. Astin was referring to his dismissal, and subsequent reinstatement, as director of the National Bureau of Standards because the agency's findings concerning a commercial battery additive did not conform with the "play of the market place." (see SNL, July 4, 1953, p. 6)

The kind of satisfaction he has found in his job, Dr. Astin said, is "repayment for much of the so-called disadvantages."

On the subject of scientists and public responsibility, he made these points:

1. Scientists are ordinary human beings with essentially the same virtues and deficiencies that most people have in varying degrees. As citizens they have substantially the same responsibilities as other citizens.

2. In direct contacts with the public, scientists should interpret as clearly, accurately and simply as possible the nature of

their work, and its technical implications and limitations.

3. The greatest contribution that scientists, either individually or collectively, can make to the public good is to do their professional work well.

4. Scientists with special reasons for assuming public responsibility should enter Government service, since there are important and unique opportunities there, either as full-time career employees, or as temporary experts and advisers.

Science News Letter, October 12, 1957

MANPOWER

Ask Recruiting Code For Students, Industry

► THE U. S. CHAMBER of Commerce and the College Placement Council, Inc., have taken steps to protect the American college student against "high-pressure job recruiting tactics."

The student protection plan is designed to be voluntarily accepted by all students, colleges and employers, including the Federal Government. Issued in the form of broad proposals, the plan is outlined in a publication entitled, "Principles and Practices of College Recruiting," recently released.

The plan has two general aims, to protect the student against himself and to protect him against developing the wrong idea about business.

Without a recruiting guide, the Chamber reports, students run the risk of not making

a wise choice of a career, of not questioning the high standard of integrity of employers, of cutting short their plans for further education and failing to develop an attitude of personal responsibility.

The principles and practices designed to save the student from these pit-falls are based on studies by business groups, Federal agencies, college placement officials and officers of private and state universities.

They call for competent college counseling services, factual information concerning employers, the scrapping of special bonuses and other financial incentives and the acceptance of an employment offer by a student to be made in good faith and with sincere intention of taking the job.

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