

## GENERAL SCIENCE

# Information Exchange

Republican control of Joint Committee on Atomic Energy expected to reduce chances of exchange of secret atomic information with British scientists.

►BRITISH AND American atomic experts who hope to exchange secret information and knowledge had better give up that hope, for a while at least. The new Republican-controlled Joint Committee on Atomic Energy is not likely to take kindly to that idea.

Nor will it be very friendly to the suggestions of Gens. Omar Bradley and J. Lawton Collins that NATO forces in Europe be given some information about the capabilities of atomic weapons. The two generals think this is necessary for proper planning of the defense of Europe.

The new committee will be headed by either Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, R. Iowa, or Rep. W. Sterling Cole, R.-N.Y. Sen. Hickenlooper was chairman once before, in the Republican-controlled 80th Congress. Now House members of the joint committee are claiming it is their turn to provide the chairman.

One big decision the committee will have to make is the manner in which the first practicable plants for producing power from atomic energy are financed. There are three proposed methods: 1. The government would subsidize private industry by guaranteeing to buy the plutonium produced as a by-product to the power. 2. Private industry would go ahead without this subsidy. 3. The government would build a plant itself.

The third solution is probably out. A Republican administration is unlikely to

sponsor an atomic TVA. There is disagreement within industry about whether or not a subsidy is a good thing.

The committee will have a great deal to say about the extent of the H-bomb program. Shortly before he died, Sen. Brien McMahon, father of the Atomic Energy Act, spoke of building "thousands" of H-bombs. The committee will have the last say as to whether this is a worthwhile investment.

There will probably be little change in the thinking of the committee on the amount of money to be made available for the atomic program. But the Appropriations Committees of the House and Senate have something to say about that. With Rep. John Taber, R.-N.Y., heading the House group, there is some fear that appropriations might be cut below that point which the atomic committee members think necessary.

What stands in greatest danger of being cut are the Atomic Energy Commission's programs of basic research and fellowships for advanced study. Some Congressmen believe that greater emphasis should be given to applied research and development based on what we already know during the time of danger to the nation. The scientists and other Congressmen believe we might lose the scientific cold war if we do not constantly search for new fundamental knowledge.

Science News Letter, December 6, 1952

the "puppy" love affairs are not quite so long-lasting.

Adolescents, Dr. Darling also says, should occasionally be allowed to fail or make mistakes without being punished or blamed.

"We learn from our failures, not from our successes," he points out.

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Electronic computers cannot solve problems that cannot be solved by "hand methods"; their superiority lies only in their speed, accuracy and ability to grind away at the problem without tiring.

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### PSYCHOLOGY

## "Not Quite" Age

►THE ADOLESCENT age, from 12 to 18, has been called the "not quite" age by one psychiatrist, Dr. L. G. Lowrey of New York. It is an age when boys and girls are "not quite" children, "not quite" adults and "not quite" sure of themselves.

It is an age calling for great understanding on the part of parents, teachers and other grownups, particularly when in positions of authority over the adolescents.

Parents and teachers must understand not only the adolescents but also themselves. For example: Bill has taken driving lessons and wants to drive the family car. Dad says, No, he is still too young. Does Dad understand that his own needs and Bill's are in conflict? Bill may need to exercise his sense of accomplishment by showing how well he can handle the family car. Dad needs to express his sense of ownership and his "vast practical ex-

perience." If Dad can understand his own needs and feelings as well as Bill's, he and Bill should be able to work out the situation in a reasonable way without a fight or hurt feelings.

Dr. C. Douglas Darling of Cornell University explains some of the "rigidity and bossiness on the part of parents, college professors, doctors and teachers" as follows: It is due to the fact that for some unconscious reason these people are afraid they will be displaced in some way by the youth who seems to be taking such authority to himself.

In the first issue of a new magazine, *Student Medicine* (Oct.), Dr. Darling also warns that parents and other adults should not make fun of the adolescent's awkwardness nor of his "puppy" love affairs. These last, he points out, may be just as deep as love relationships in later life, even if