

Open Season Appearing on Scientists

By JOSEPH L. MYLER
United Press International
WASHINGTON (UPI)—This seems to be the open season on scientists.

They are under attack from many quarters. Some of the hardest blows have come from scientists themselves.

Many of the knocks have been delivered, if not with a blunt instrument, at least bluntly. For example, Dr. Philip H. Abelson, editor of the magazine Science, said recently that:

"The scientific community has not responded adequately to the high trust placed on it by the nation."

No one is suggesting that the 20th century world can or wants to get along without science. Science undoubtedly is here to stay.

Affair Is Flagging
But in Congress the love affair between scientists and lawmakers which began with the wartime conquest of the awesome atom appears to be flagging.

The House chopped the National Science Foundation's budget from the \$589 million asked by the administration to \$323 million.

At the same time, the House cut the space exploration program from \$5.7 billion to \$5.1 billion, whittling for the first time an undertaking of the government which until this year had seemed immune to congressional criticism.

The House also voted 336 to 0 to create a special committee to investigate federally financed research and development projects generally and specifically. The House Science and Astronautics committee, meanwhile, will make a similar investigation.

Support for Projects
Support for research projects, including space exploration, hit \$14.9 billion for the fiscal year which started July 1. Less than a quarter of a century ago, in 1940, the federal government was spending only \$75 million for such work.

Since 1940 research and development spending has doubled every three to four years. Many congressmen, as well as others, are appalled.

Scientists say most of this money is being spent on hardware, not on science. But con-

gressmen and the lay public do not exactly understand the distinction which scientists make between pure research on the one hand and engineering development on the other.

This may be because scientists themselves have flocked in large numbers to big and costly government programs, such as atomic power development and space exploration, which are concerned as much with exploiting as with creating knowledge.

A Vocal Critic
Abelson is one of the most vocal critics of the \$20 billion project to land men on the moon before 1970. He is not alone. But there is more to the story than the moon project.

After World War II, scientists were called upon by both Congress and the public to give expert advice on affairs in which they were not always expert and to make final judgments on issues about which scientists themselves were divided.

It developed that scientists, too, were people. Many will remember the conflict within the scientific community over the possible effects of mankind on the small amount of radiation exposure resulting from delayed fallout spread around the world by nuclear tests. Some scientists magnified the effects; others minimized them.

Some Things Not Polite
This was confusing, not to say maddening, to the non-scientists. Learned doctors denounced each other in public and before congressional committees. Some of the things they said about each other were not, to say the least, polite.

This same sort of confusion, this cleavage among members of the scientific elites, manifested itself during Senate hearings on the limited nuclear test ban treaty.

One scientist said the treaty would hurt the United States. Another said it would hurt Russia. A third said it would affect both nations about the same way. As the Federation of American Scientists put it:

Apparent Contradiction
"Many Senators found themselves perplexed by the apparent contradictions between the testimony of different scientists."

Many similar examples of disagreement among the "experts" could be cited. Scientists obviously have not undertaken in any organized way to set themselves up as high priests of a particularly esoteric cult. Their inability to close ranks among themselves rules out any such attempt.

Still, scientists do seem to be different from ordinary mortals. Exaggerated notions about them have taken root in the popular mind. There are good scientists, who create balms and panaceas, and there are bad scientists who invent bombs and poisons—or so some people seem to believe.

Only An Image
Dael Wolfe, publisher of Science, said recently that for many Americans the scientist "is only an image and never a reality in the sense that the local doctor, lawyer, banker, and merchant are living realities."

It is possible to reverse the scientist. It is hard not to when you think of a Newton, a Planck, an Einstein, a Pauli, or a Fermi. It is also possible to despise him.

Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, president of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, does not believe the scientist has much to offer toward solution of man's moral and intellectual problems. Hutchins, former president of the University of Chicago, says:

"A scientist has a limited education. He labors on the topic of his dissertation, wins the Nobel Prize by the time he is 35, and suddenly has nothing to do... he has no alternative but to spend the rest of his life making a nuisance of himself."

Series of Papers
The center which Hutchins heads recently published a series of papers charging that "a majority of American scientists, especially those connected with the arms program, are not acting in the best interests of a free society."

Another person who long since has disabused himself of the notion that scientific enterprise will save the world is David E. Lilienthal. Lilienthal, the first chairman of the U.S. Atomic Energy commission, has worked much of his life with scientists.

In a just published book, he accused them in effect of getting too big for their breeches. They involve themselves as experts in "non-scientific areas of human affairs."

Because he invented the A-bomb, the scientist "seemed to take on some of the attributes of his world-shaking creation; there was, in the public mind," Lilienthal said, "something unearthly, something superhuman, something uncanny about him."

Scientist Confused
And with burgeoning vast new government enterprises, Lilienthal said, the scientist got "confused with bureaucratic impulse to justify expenditure and see that next year's budget is higher than last's."

"The space program happens at the moment," Lilienthal said, "to be the most extensive illustration of what has happened to science through its absorption into a

fast-building and gargantuan establishment.

"Here the goals of the program are not scientific goals; they are political. This is not to say that the goals are therefore not justifiable, though whether they are is a serious problem indeed."

Illustrates Direction
"The space program merely illustrates how the direction of scientific effort now is no longer controlled by recognizable scientific considerations."

Many scientists heartily agree with this. But they have found their sorrow that when scientists denounce programs they consider non-scientific, the axe often falls on programs they approve.

If the \$20 billion Apollo lunar landing program is vulnerable, how much more open to attack is a funny sounding \$14,000 science foundation project to study "information contained in echoes."

The tiny science foundation project is basic science, aimed solely at acquiring knowledge. But it just might help the

blind to see with sound instead of light. Nevertheless projects like this are bound to suffer in the gathering offensive against the bigger and costlier programs.

Shocked at Sneers
Dr. Abelson, who hits often at Apollo, was shocked by congressional sneers at scientifically pure activities costing only a fraction of the total federal research and development budget.

Wolfe has said that perhaps it isn't worthwhile to try to change the public "image of the scientist." It is science, not the scientist, that is important. Lilienthal also pays tribute to science. He does not deny, moreover, that scientists are people.

"They have proven beyond all doubt," he said, "that they are human, and nothing more admiring could be said. They have shown us that they can be just as wise and just as foolish, just as judicious and just as ridiculous, just as clear-headed and just as bone-headed, as any of us laymen can ever be."

Measures to Reduce Shoplifting Listed In Police Bulletin

A bulletin discussing measures that can be taken to reduce losses by shoplifting has been distributed to Medford merchants by the city police department, Chief Charles P. Champlin has announced.

The problem of shoplifting, always serious, becomes particularly acute during the Christmas shopping season, Chief Champlin noted.

But he advised that if a few simple precautions are observed by merchants, shoplifting can be more effectively controlled and kept to a minimum.

Among the suggestions in the bulletin are the following:
—Maintain an adequate sales force during rush periods, especially during lunch and dinner hours, so as not to invite shoplifting.

Watch for Loiterers
—Watch out for loiterers, particularly those with large empty bags. If suspicious, call the police.

—Where and when possible, use "clerk spotters" to control shoplifting.

—Avoid display of extra value merchandise in the immediate vicinity of exits where thieves can "snatch and run."

—Guard against "disturbances" among customers. They may be a "cover" for thefts.

—Prohibit use of stock room entrance by the public.

The bulletin also recommends that all incidents be reported promptly to police, since the element of time can often be crucial in the successful handling of shoplifting cases. Chief Champlin said.

LAW UPHELD
PORTLAND (UPI)—A new law requiring public dental technicians who repair and replace dentures to work under supervision of licensed dentists was upheld today by Circuit Judge pro-tem Barrett H. Goldstein.

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