

Stage N
of A to T.

A Working Paper Draft
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SOCIO-ENGINEERING PROBLEMS REPORT NO. 42-A

A series of manuscripts on the social relations of engineering and related philosophical questions dealing with the interaction of science and society. Distribution is limited to reviewers and discussion groups for criticism prior to consideration for possible publication.

"UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING"

Abstract

The attached statement was the first draft of a proposed letter to the President regarding his recommendation of October 23, 1945, to Congress for Universal Military Training. The revision of the draft was never completed. I attempted to interest a group of people in Cambridge, Mass., to join in signing the statement, but the press of other issues such as the question of military versus civilian control of atomic energy and the general movement of people to new or old jobs at the end of World War II left this problem behind.

".....we must make the military training program a component part of a program for world peace. This program would include:

- (1) National Research Foundation,
- (2) Research in the Social Sciences,
- (3) Policy of Freedom of Scientific Research and Disclosure,
- (4) One year of "international service" for all youths between ages of 17 and 20, with the following alternatives:
 - (a) Police training (or military training),
 - (b) Scientific training or social service training,
 - (c) International friendship missions,
 - (d) Conservation projects,
 - (e) Religious leadership training,
 - (f) Special projects.
- (5) Projects to be funded partially by federal funds matched by independent funds,
- (6) All military information on weapons should be available to responsible United Nations officials, when suitable exchange agreements are negotiated."

I was particularly concerned that the trend toward greater reliance on military power by the United States would lead to neglect of the social science research suggested by Drs. Jewett and King of Bell Telephone Laboratories (Jour. Applied Physics, Dec. 1940, p. 749) and also my own proposal for a "social engineering research program" (SEPR No. 41).

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Stage: Draft N, SEP 42 SEPR 42-A

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10/27/45

First Draft of Proposed Statement to be sent to President Truman regarding his recommendation of October 23 to Congress for Universal Military Training.

of October 23
1 We regard your recommendation/to Congress for
2 universal military training as a threat to the future
3 security of our country. We take issue with your
4 statement "It is only by strength that we can impress
5 the fact upon possible future aggressors that we will
6 tolerate no threat to peace or liberty." It is felt
7 that your proposal for universal training in its
8 present form is tending to break down the possibility
9 of world cooperation.
10 We feel that we must maintain some kind of a
11 military reserve for international peace police
12 purposes, but if we want real peace we must make the
13 military training form a component part of a program
14 for world peace. Although we are not prepared with
15 details of substitute plan, we submit the following
16 suggestions for your consideration. We hope that
17 you will call upon competent leaders from industrial,
18 labor, consumer, scientific, and religious organi-
19 zations for advice. By scientific we mean both the
20 so-called "natural sciences" and the "social sciences."

1 1. SUGGESTIONS FOR A NATIONAL POLICY FOR WORLD PEACE.

2 a Establishment of a National Research Foundation
3 as recommended by Dr. Vannevar Bush in "Science, the
4 Endless Frontier" July 1945.

5 b Stimulation of Scientific Research in the
6 Social Sciences such as Sociology, Psychology,
7 Political Science, International Relations, History,
8 Geography, Economics, etc. This might be done by
9 extending the National Research Foundation mentioned
10 above to include a Division of Social Sciences and
11 to expand the proposed Division of Scientific
12 Personnel and Education to include adequate financial
13 support to Social Sciences.

14 c A policy of freedom of scientific research
15 and freedom of disclosure of the results of scientific
16 research.

17 d A policy of requiring a year of international
18 service for all youth between the ages 17 and 22.
19 Alternates should be available as follows:

20 (1) Police training under Army or Navy.

21 (2) Scientific training at colleges and
22 universities supplemented with part time ROTC
23 training or social service work for an agency
24 recognized by the Community Chest of American Red
25 Cross.

1 (3) International friendship missions,
2 consisting of American youths spending a year in
3 some foreign country helping build schools, hospitals,
4 or worthwhile projects while learning about the
5 country in which they are staying.

6 (4) Conservation projects to preserve the
7 natural resources of the world for future generations.

8 (5) Training with any recognized religious
9 groups.

10 (6) Special projects when approved by a
11 national administrative board.

12 1 It is recommended that this program be
13 supported by a combination of federal funds and
14 funds from participating organizations.

15 2 A policy of making all military information
16 on weapons of war available to the United Nations
17 Security Council when some equivalent guarantees
18 can be made by other members of the Council.

FB /TBW