

# Books

## *Science and the Nation: Policy and Politics*

by J. Stefan Dupré and Sanford A. Lakoff  
Prentice-Hall . . . . . \$3.95 cloth  
\$1.95 paper

Reviewed by Lee A. DuBridge,  
President, California Institute  
of Technology

This interesting and illuminating book had its origin, according to its preface, in a course introduced in the Department of Government at Harvard University on the subject of "Science, Technology, and Politics."

This subject obviously is a vast one, and no finite-sized volume could cover all its aspects. This book, however, does an excellent job in illuminating a number of important topics in this field.

To start with, there is an informative discussion of the history of science in government, tracing the developments from the early and turbu-

lent days of the Coast and Geodetic Survey to the vast government participation in science characteristic of the 1960's. There is a similar history of the growth of research in industry, stressing the relation between industrial research and government financing, particularly in military areas.

The third chapter deals with the relation between universities and government with emphasis on the recent thorny problems of indirect costs, loyalty, security requirements, the financing of capital facilities, and the question of whether the government has or should have a general policy on its role in higher education.

This is followed by a discussion of how science policy is formulated within the government, with a history of some of the principal science advisory bodies which have performed various functions in these postwar years. An account of the difficulties and successes of these scientific bodies is treated with sympathy and understanding in spite of the necessity for brevity.

Part Two of the volume devotes itself to the subject of politics, although the boundary line between politics

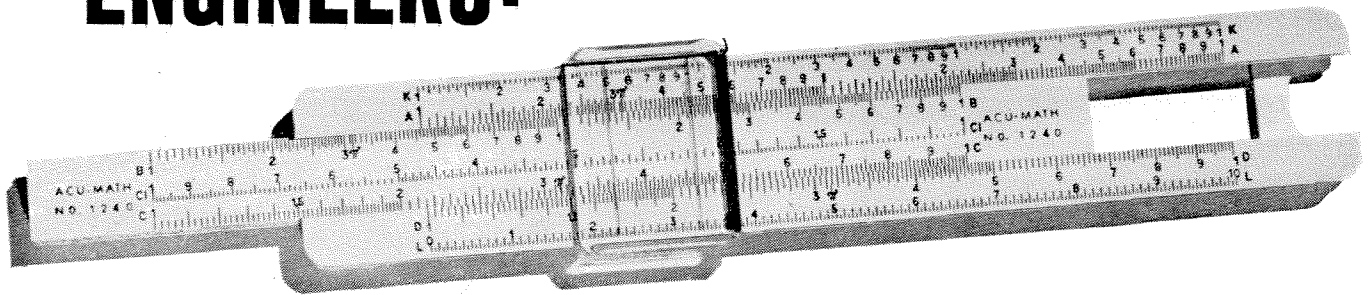
and policy is clearly difficult to draw. It is largely concerned with the problems growing out of the development of the atomic bomb and the struggles to develop a military policy and program suitable to the atomic era.

It is pointed out how scientists have advised on policy in these matters, based upon their technical knowledge, but the decision-making has always still been in the hands of responsible government officials. Scientists, indeed, were not always unanimous in the advice which they rendered on policy matters — illustrating clearly that scientists have political leanings too.

Illustrating the problems of loyalty and security, there is a lengthy discussion of the hearings in the case of J. R. Oppenheimer, bringing out clearly the fact that the final disposition of this case really had nothing much to do with either loyalty or security.

The book concludes with a plea for greater public understanding of the relations between government, the universities, and the scientific community. The volume can serve as an admirable contribution to this end.

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