

# CHEMIST DEMANDS PRIVATE ATOM ROLE

## Tells Society Industry Should Be Allowed to Use Fission for Peacetime Power

By **GEORGE ECKEL**

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CHICAGO, Sept. 7—The Government should open the field of atomic energy development to private industry in the interest of peacetime applications of atomic energy, Farrington Daniels, chairman of the board of governors of the Argonne National (atomic) Laboratory, said here today.

Mr. Daniels made the recommendation before a meeting of the Chicago section of the American Chemical Society. The society's national meeting ends here tomorrow.

Declaring there existed a tremendous challenge to chemistry in the conversion of atomic energy to peacetime uses, Mr. Daniels continued:

"The Government in five years has done nothing toward that end but plan. The five declassified reactors in this country are used only for the production of isotopes and for atomic research. None of them is being put to work on the problem of converting atomic energy into useful power. Meanwhile absolute Government control of uranium bars all private enterprise from the picture."

### Government "Too Cautious"

Professor Daniels, now at the University of Wisconsin, is a member of the board of directors of the society. He formerly directed the metallurgical laboratory at the University of Chicago, where man first achieved atomic fission.

He expressed the belief that industry, if given the opportunity, would take some of the chances involved, "which Government is too cautious to take," and that we would get ahead much faster.

"I insist that in the United States there are scientists, engineers and industrial companies not now engaged in the atomic energy program who would \* \* \* gladly and effectively develop pilot plants and full-scale plants for the use of atomic power in the generation of industrial electricity.

"All we need is a change in policy to make more complete use of our natural and human resources and, if we fail to do this, we may be embarrassed sometime before long to find another country the first to demonstrate industrial electricity from atomic power."

### Science Sleuths Urged

Dr. Paul V. Howerton of Julius Hyman & Co., Denver, proposed a voluntary scientific intelligence service, supplementing military intelligence, in which scientific linguists and bibliographers would seek to determine the scientific strength and current research trends of Russia and her satellites. They would do this by analyzing and coordinating information obtained from the technical publications of Iron Curtain countries.

A research chemist, Dr. Howerton has translated scientific material from sixteen languages. He is chief consultant on scientific literature for the Bibliographical Center for Research, Rocky Mountain Region, and adviser to numerous institutional and public libraries.

"Those of us who are chemical linguists and bibliographers have the responsibility of making the Russian literature available to the experts, whose time obviously cannot be spent groping through the Russian literature," he said.

Dr. Eduard Farber of the Timber Engineering Company, Washington, D. C., proposed a synthetic reforestation to halt the continuous erosion of America's topsoil, by means of a chemical humus made by processing the waste products of the lumber industry. He estimated such wood waste at 60,000,000 tons a year.

"The processing of low-grade cellulosic materials under the action of acid catalysts and moderate heat offers a way from sawdust to soil amendment," said Dr. Farber.

He reported that when ten to forty tons per acre of the converted sawdust were applied to the soil, seeds germinated earlier and at a higher rate, leaves were bigger and greener and the weights of produce such as radishes, beets, onions and tomatoes were greater.

He made clear that reforestation was the long-range remedy for erosion but suggested the cellulose humus treatment as an immediate means of replacing topsoil.

### Lethal Diseases Linked

CHICAGO, Sept. 7 (UP)—Science has found a "common denominator" linking cancer, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever and rheumatoid arthritis, an international team of scientists reported today.

The denominator is an abnormal amount of the simple sugar, fructose, in the blood of patients suffering from any of the four diseases, which are among man's most crippling or lethal ailments.

The report was made to the American Chemical Society by Dr. Washington Ayala Bonilla of the University of Montevideo, Uruguay, and Dr. Eugene L. Hess of the Northwestern University Medical School.

The doctors did not explore the medical possibilities of their discovery, but it was recalled that the new "wonder" drugs, ACTH and cortisone, have been credited with dramatic results in the treatment of rheumatic fever and arthritis.

Thus far, little is known about experiments with the new drugs in cancer research.