PENDING LEGISLATION FOR FEDERAL AID TO SCIENCE

On November 14, 1945, a number of persons met at the call of President Isaiah Bowman, of the Johns Hopkins University, to discuss pending legislation for federal aid to science, particularly as represented in the two bills proposed respectively by Senator Magnuson (S. 1285) and Senator Kilgore (S. 1297). Both bills propose a national research or science foundation for federal aid to science, but the two bills start from wholly different premises with respect to the purpose of such a foundation and therefore present widely divergent points of view and completely different organizations. Senator Magnuson’s bill is based upon Dr. Vannevar Bush’s report to President Truman, entitled “Science, the Endless Frontier.”

Those present at the above meeting moved to bring into existence a Committee Supporting the Bush Report, one purpose of this committee being to restate the fundamental principles emphasized in Dr. Bush’s report, since it is believed that observance of these principles is of paramount importance to the whole future of scientific research. It has seemed appropriate to make this statement in an open letter signed by members of the committee and addressed to President Truman. A copy of this letter follows:

The President of the United States,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

We, the undersigned members of the newly organized Committee Supporting the Bush Report, respectfully address you on the subject of pending science legislation, as follows:

Subsequent to the publication of the Bush Report, “Science, the Endless Frontier” (July 19), you stated to the Congress that you were in favor of federal support for scientific research, fellowships and scholarships. Bills designed to provide such support have been introduced by Senators Kilgore and Magnuson. Most of the scientists called to testify at hearings on these bills stated that they were in favor of the form of organization and other features provided in the Magnuson Bill. We understand that in your name certain government