SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, THE HOPE OF THE SOUTH

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I wish, first, to discuss the importance of scientific research to the nation as a whole; second, to contrast the scientific research done in the North and the Far West with that done in the South; and third, to suggest ways of building up scientific research organizations in the South or in any other region.

We all know about the "Report on Economic Conditions of the South" prepared by the National Emergency Council for President Roosevelt, and his statement that "The South presents right now the Nation's number one economic problem." This report emphasizes our poor ranking in education, housing facilities, etc., but barely mentions our low ranking in the field of scientific research. This is all the more remarkable since we now know that the present status of the United States as the leading nation is due primarily to the unbeatable combination of business and scientific research, backed by our great resources.

Big business to-day is exploiting the fruits of our scientific research laboratories—our last remaining frontiers, our so-called "inner frontiers"—as during the past century it exploited our exterior—or geographical—frontiers. There is one big difference now—we shall never run out of "inner frontiers." Success in one field of scientific research immediately presents many new and worth-while fields.

It is this scientific research, chiefly in the fields of applied chemistry and physics, backed by excellent industrial organizations, which has enabled us gradually to forge ahead of all other countries. Our nation