The Mobilization of Science in National Defense

Dr. Frank B. Jewett

There is perhaps no audience before which the role of science and engineering in modern warfare can more appropriately be discussed than one composed of members of the Institute of Radio Engineers. You are primarily communication engineers and of all the branches of applied science, that which has to do with the rapid transmission of intelligence is perhaps most vital to the successful use of the modern fighting instrumentalities. Rapid movement of troops and supplies over far-flung lines of action on sea and land and in the air are possible only on the basis of very effective systems of radio communication. In fact, more and more are means of communication assuming the function of a unifying influence which pervades the other arms of the military organization. They coordinate the movement of naval and aerial fleets. They enable infantry, tank columns and formations of planes to operate as a single effective unit. They shrink, as nothing else can, a 2,000-mile battle-line to the compass of a single sector.

The telephone and telegraph and particularly the radio telephone and telegraph are, in effect, the keystone of the whole military arch. You members of the Institute of Radio Engineers are, therefore, exponents of a very vital department of technology, and I am particularly grateful to you for affording me

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