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## ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN SCIENTISTS FOR THE WAR.<sup>1</sup> II

By Dr. KARL T. COMPTON

PRESIDENT, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### WAR-TIME SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION

In spite of the apparently complete peace-time organization which I have just described, it has always been our experience, in the time of great emergency, that it appears advisable to establish temporary new agencies to deal particularly with the emergency. For example, I happened to be attached to one of these temporary agencies during the last war and I mention the matter not only by way of illustration but also because it will enable me to relate an anecdote about your late distinguished colleague, then Sir Ernest Rutherford.

This agency was the Research Information Service, set up jointly by our Military Intelligence, Naval Intelligence and Council of National Defense, with

<sup>1</sup> Pilgrim Trust Lecture, under the auspices of the Royal Society of London, May 20, 1943.

offices in Washington, London, Paris and Rome. The function of these offices was essentially the same as that of the scientific liaison offices which have been operating so effectively between units of the British Commonwealth and the United States during the present war.

The head of the Research Information Service in London was the late Professor Bumstead, whom some of you doubtless remember. I was attached to the Paris office and happened to be temporarily in charge during the time when an allied conference on submarine detection was arranged in Paris under the auspices of this office.

One of the delegates from Great Britain was Sir Ernest Rutherford, who had been collaborating closely with the French physicist, Paul Langevin, in the development of underwater supersonic devices. The day

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