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SCIENCE AND OUR NATION'S FUTURE¹

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THE nation is now calling for all its scientific strength. On the battlefields of Europe and the Orient and on the seven seas new weapons are turning the tide of battle. On both sides of the conflict determined men fight with courage and skill. If we are to win a decisive victory we must have weapons not only greater in quantity but superior in quality. Superior quality requires skilled labor and great industries with knowledge of the best techniques. It requires ingenious inventors with fertile imaginations. But basic to all is required the science that makes possible the new inventions.

When the war is won the task of maintaining a strong leadership in science will still be with us. After the hates and injustices that the war has brought, the safety of the United States in a postwar

¹Address during the New York Philharmonic Symphony-United States Rubber Company broadcast, January 14, 1945.

world will demand eternal vigilance. But not even vigilance is enough. If we are in earnest in striving for a peace with freedom to work for the best we know, there is only one course for us to follow. This course is to maintain with the nations friendly to us such strength that we shall not be challenged while we seek to build a world in which war will be considered as a disaster rather than as the only hope for the improvement of a people's lot.

How shall we maintain order while this peace-loving world is being built? Only by keeping ourselves strong and working for friendly relations with our neighbors.

It will require a long time thus to make the world forget war. If we are to retain our leadership it will be only through superiority in those things that make a modern nation great. Foremost among those things is science.