

THE CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The National Science Foundation has a deep concern and heavy responsibility for the future of scientific endeavor in the United States.

A measure of our success will be found in the strength of our Nation and the welfare of our people during coming decades. Many of our objectives are not quickly accomplished, for our primary functions are these: to improve the quality of scientific education; to enable promising youth to prepare for careers in science; to provide financial support for exploratory research which may have no discernible immediate practical usefulness; and to foster more widespread understanding of science and a congenial environment for creative scientific scholars.

The fulfillment of these objectives requires that those who provide the funds for our work have confident faith in the ultimate value of solid foundations. Our staff must be content with long deferred satisfaction in scientific discoveries made by others. We must constantly remind ourselves that the degree to which we satisfy those responsibilities will have a profound effect upon the military defenses, the economic strength, and the spiritual quality of our Nation many years from now.

If we were to be concerned only with scientific matters of obvious practical value, we should be unfaithful to our responsibilities for our Nation's future. If we were devoted only to the future, we should neglect those present needs which must be satisfied in order that our Nation may survive the perilous present. Accordingly, the Foundation recognizes a dual responsibility to marshal the scientific and technical resources of our Nation for the needs of the present and to build for the future with bold imagination.

Permeating all our concerns and efforts described in this Annual Report is devotion to the belief that the furtherance of science enriches the intellectual and spiritual life of the people of our country, broadens and deepens the quality of our culture, and ennobles our national ideals. We think of science as a great adventure of the human mind.

DETLEV W. BRONK,
Chairman, National Science Board.