

head start, and closest adaptation to their own business, they would usually turn over their patents and know-how to their association, for a good recompense, and often would do research jobs for it, on which they had some special suitability.

[566] At home, then, a practically complete freedom for any firm to use any method known, without a penny's penalty of royalty nor saying by your leave; and freedom for any inventor to try to improve almost any invention, and to hope for some reward if he accomplished or learned anything useful, even if he could not carry an invention through to patent or production, nor even get beyond some good discoveries. But most of the R&D would be carried out in great laboratories of the associations, government, universities, or foundations, with unlimited funds at the disposal of the associations. And for the first time in the world's history we should have some means better than philanthropy, to support needed *fundamental* civil inventions, whose expensive plodding goes sadly slow while there is no way to pay the bills.

[567] Since civil invention and research are for all, and therefore should logically be paid for by all and used by all, is not the proposed plan the most logical one, which would still leave invention in the hands (mainly) of private industry, instead of handing it over to Government, to which 65.6%⁵³¹ of all R&D, without counting tax exemption, have already been entrusted?

APPROVALS OF THE PLAN OR OF RELATED IDEAS

[567.5] The Commerce Department has requested, and received, some congressional approval, for a "civilian industrial technology program," to develop civil technology by research, and by stimulation toward adopting better methods known. Especially aimed at would be the least inventive industries, like textiles, and building, which are generally those of smallest scale and strongest competition. (Cf. ¶ 436 and ¶ 546.) Agriculture, mining, fisheries, typically such, have long been helped by Government. If the improvement of agriculture were left to family scale farmers, its progress would be near zero. Funds are proposed to be supplied to universities, engineering schools, and existing research institutes. The Department's bulletin adds, "It is hoped that industry will initiate broad industrial research associations with which the Department might contract to augment industrial support."⁶⁶⁷ A good start on our plan. There should be a small professional staff in the Department for administration. "Determination of eligibility for contract awards and direction of the research program will be made with the advice of advisory boards composed of industrial and labor leaders, educators, and professional men well versed in both science and the technological needs of industry. The National Academy of Sciences will be asked to appoint the advisory board members for each industry."⁶⁶⁷ Related institutions abroad are mentioned in ¶ 529.

[568] Stedman: "Patent pools probably are an essential instrument in today's economy. But in view of the power that they yield, the choice seems fairly clear: either they must do a thorough job of self-policing or the Government must take on the job of regulating them