

All right. Now, we have passed through a definition and examples of our field. Thus, when you see science and technology put together in one lecture, as it is in this one, remember, we are dealing with two disciplines that are quite different.

We should not pass on without telling you my views of their role in history. The history of science, as exemplified by the philosopher who spoke here this morning, is now a respectable study for history professors. For a great many years it was not only not referred to adequately in history books but it was not taught in colleges. As an example I went through this period as chairman of an advisory council to an engineering college when the dean of the college asked the history department of that great university to put on a course for engineers on the history of science. The history department came back with a curt note saying, "The history of science is not a suitable subject for instruction." How they arrived at that conclusion is beyond me. It does not matter. So the engineering college dean said, "O.K. We'll have a history department and we'll teach it." "Oh, no," said the history department, "you can't have two history departments competing on this campus. This is ridiculous." So they agreed to teach the history of science.

After the first year the engineering class that took it petitioned that it be discontinued. The dean of engineering said, "Why?" "Well," said they, "It's a lousy course and it's taught even worse." It was because they put a graduate student on it who really did not know his field. So, again the dean said, "O.K., we'll go back now and have a history department." But the president of the university had to step in at this point, and he said, "We can't do that. Instead we'll do it right." So it was assigned to one of the most distinguished history professors, who is one of the leaders in this field now, and who was the first president of that new group of the Association of History Professors, for those who teach the history of science.

Today it is respectable. This professor who talked to you this morning used a great volume of interesting material to show you one of its underlying characteristics. But what he did not attempt to show you is perhaps one of the aspects of the subject that we are most interested in today. This is: What is its role in national power? What purpose brings you here today with your special knowledge and proficiencies? You are here only because science and technology has made it possible for you to use weapon systems which would never have come into being without scientific research