

argues that existing nuclear weapons are adequate for an all-out attack but unsuited for defensive use; future development will lead to improvement in the possibilities of defense, and will therefore make war less likely. Both sides in the dispute believe that they are fighting for peace, and both are sincere. I consider the arguments on both sides slightly irrelevant. To fight for peace means to me to fight for an effective international control of national armaments. Insofar as a test-ban agreement would distract attention from this objective, I am against it.

To my mind the overriding argument in favor of bomb experiments is the long-range one. The handling of nuclear explosions is a new technology, and attempts to stifle a new technology can neither be fruitful nor ultimately even successful. The dominating fact of our technological situation is that thermonuclear explosions give us energy at something like one ten-thousandth of the cost of all other sources of energy. Professor Orear recently proposed a scheme for the direct harnessing of this energy. Sooner or later, by us or by others, the job will be done.

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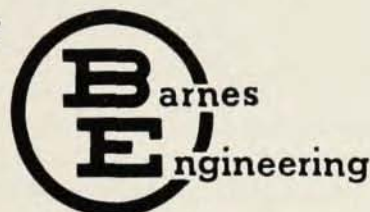
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