Science and the Nation. Policy and Politics. By J. Stefan Dupré and Sanford A. Lakoff. 181 pp. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1962. Clothbound $3.95, paperbound $1.95. *Reviewed by R. B. Lindsay, Brown University.*

RELATIONS between science and the state have become of critical importance since World War II, and the written material of all kinds about them is now of enormous extent, though not entirely in easily accessible form. Therefore, it is useful to have *available* a brief survey of the principal aspects of the problem, and this is what the authors of this book have attempted to provide. They proceed from the premise that there are two fundamental aspects of the relations in question, namely, (1) the evolution of a government policy with respect to science, and (2) the confrontation of the activities of scientists with the actual realities of politics. This approach is a rational and ingenious one and makes for interesting reading. It is true that the emphasis is mainly on the increase in government interest in science during and after World War II, and one might receive the misleading impression that science had little or no place on the national scene prior to that time. This ignores the early significance of the National Bureau of Standards, the Weather Bureau, and other government organizations with scientific tasks and programs. However, it is perfectly true that the real complexity and magnitude of government involvement in science and scientists' concern with government are essentially phenomena of the past quarter-century, and the book must be judged for its contribution to this theme.

In discussing government policy with respect to science, the authors pay thoughtful attention to the growth of industrial research and its relation to military needs, to the growing support of science in the universities by the government with all the thorny problems of contract and grant research, and the great difficulties encountered in the formulation of an acceptable science policy on the part of government.

The more interesting part of the book, however, is that devoted to the political problems inherent in the relations between government and scientists. It is precisely here that the scientist appears not merely as a technically trained expert in his field but also as a fallible human being and hence a political animal. The story of atomic energy is unfolded as a prime illustration of this facet of affairs, with the development of sharp cleavages between groups having different opinions about the proper economic and military uses of this new energy source. The security problem also comes in for much attention, with emphasis on the misunderstanding by professional politicians about the nature of science and the difficulty even good scientists often have in explaining it.

Physicists will do well to ponder carefully the points so ably brought out in this book. Whether they will emerge from their reflections as wiser men is questionable; they will undoubtedly in most cases be sadder.