

# News and views

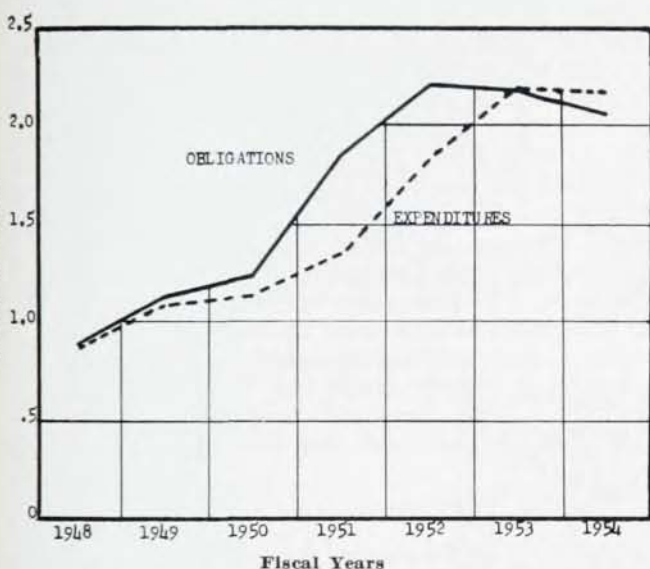
## Federal Funds for Science

### NSF Estimates for 1954 Fiscal Year

As has been freely predicted in the press since the adjournment of Congress last summer, obligations and expenditures of federal agencies for scientific research and development seem certain to drop in 1954. The latest summary of the situation was released on Oc-

tober 12th by the National Science Foundation, whose revised estimates are shown in the accompanying table and chart. These 1954 estimates, the Foundation observes, are still tentative since several agencies plan further revisions in their programs. It is also pointed out that since the lag between obligations and expenditures has averaged about nine months over the past several years, the decline in obligations for 1954 will presumably be reflected in a further decrease in expenditures in fiscal 1955.

While there has been some speculation as to the probable effects of reductions in spending on basic research, no reliable estimates for 1954 appear to exist. In recent years obligations of federal agencies for basic research has amounted to about six percent of the total federal obligations for research and development. Whether this year's \$3.25 million increase in appropriations for the National Science Foundation will prove sufficient to offset reductions in basic research spending by other agencies, notably the Department of Defense, is not clear. In this regard, Defense Secretary Wilson is quoted by the *Newsletter* of the Federation of American Scientists as having stated during his October 6th press conference that "We have taken no steps to de-emphasize basic research. . . . Except for some [shifts of emphasis] we intend to support basic research this coming year at substantially the same levels as we are now doing. This is somewhat between 25 and 30 million dollars per year." According to an estimate of the Science Foundation, basic research obligations of the Department of Defense for 1953 totaled somewhat more than \$32.7 million.



Obligations and expenditures of federal agencies for research and development, fiscal years 1948-1954. (Sources: Bureau of the Budget and the National Science Foundation.)

## The Kelly Committee Reports

### Increase Urged in NBS Funds

The special committee of scientists appointed last April to evaluate the functions and operations of the National Bureau of Standards has recommended that steps be taken to enlarge the bureau's basic programs relating to the accurate determination of physical constants, properties of materials, standards and standard

Summary Table of Obligations and Expenditures (in millions of dollars) of Federal Agencies for Scientific Research and Development in Fiscal Years 1952, 1953, and 1954, as Revised by the National Science Foundation on August 24, 1953

| Agency                                      | Obligations   |               |                             | Expenditures  |               |                             |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
|                                             | F. Y.<br>1952 | F. Y.<br>1953 | F. Y.<br>1954<br>(Estimate) | F. Y.<br>1952 | F. Y.<br>1953 | F. Y.<br>1954<br>(Estimate) |
| Department of Defense                       | 1705          | 1650          | 1556                        | 1315          | 1646          | 1636                        |
| Atomic Energy Commission                    | 229           | 247           | 239                         | 250           | 260           | 266                         |
| National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics | 82            | 79            | 73                          | 67            | 79            | 88                          |
| Department of Agriculture                   | 56            | 57            | 68                          | 57            | 58            | 63                          |
| Department of Health, Education and Welfare | 53            | 67            | 63                          | 65            | 74            | 61                          |
| Department of the Interior                  | 36            | 36            | 32                          | 33            | 37            | 33                          |
| Department of Commerce                      | 31            | 23            | 17                          | 28            | 24            | 17                          |
| Other Agencies                              | 25            | 28            | 26                          | 24            | 26            | 24                          |
| Total, all agencies                         | 2217          | 2187          | 2074                        | 1839          | 2205          | 2187                        |